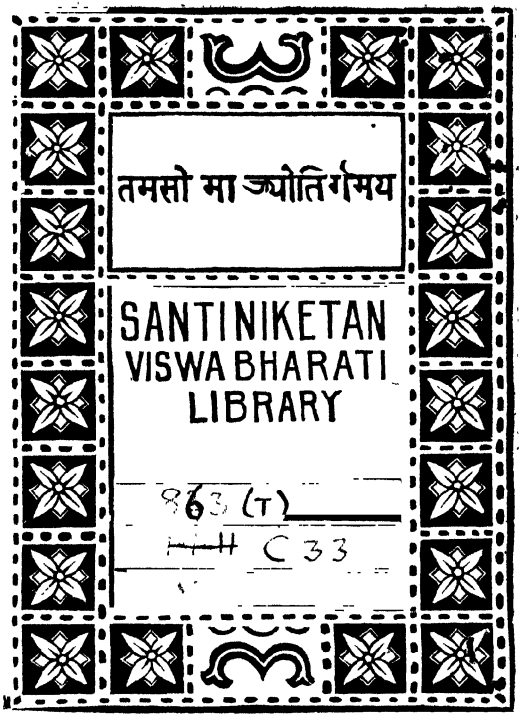
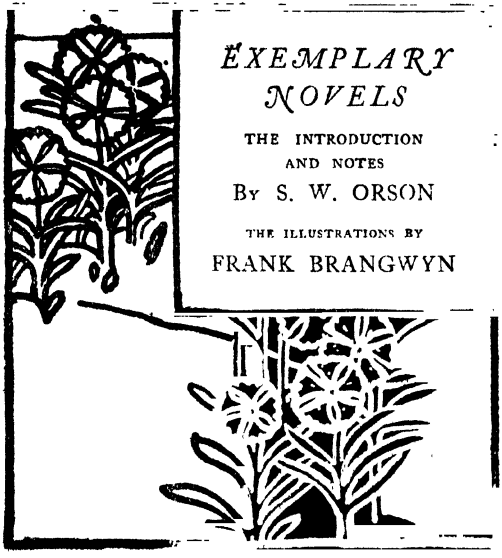

ॐ
तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय
SANTINIKETAN
VISWA BHARATI
LIBRARY
963 (T)
H C33



EXEMPLARY NOVELS

THE INTRODUCTION
AND NOTES
By S. W. ORSON

THE ILLUSTRATIONS BY
FRANK BRANGWYN

EXEMPLARY NOVELS

By CERVANTES

TRANSLATED BY

JAMES MABBE

1640

PHILADELPHIA

J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY

IN TWO VOLUMES VOL. TWO

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN BY
MORRISON AND GIBB LTD., EDINBURGH
Published August, 1905.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
THE LIBERAL LOVER	1
THE FORCE OF BLOOD . . .	93
THE SPANISH LADY .	133

LIST OF PLATES

1. Embarked himself at Cadiz . . *Frontispiece*

2. Looking on the walls of the late-lost Nicosia *face p.* 4

3. Boarding Ali's galley . . . ,, 78

4. On a hot summer's night . . ,, 75

5. Supper came in ,, 129

6. They descried three ships . . ,, 152

7. Treating of the redeeming of Christian captives . . . ,, 205

The Fourth Book



THE LIBERAL LOVER

THE LIBERAL LOVER

"O THE lamentable ruins of unhappy Nicosia! the blood of thy valiant and unfortunate defenders being yet scarce dry! If (as thou art senseless thereof) thou hadst any feeling at all in this desolate and woeful estate wherein now we are, we might jointly bewail our misfortunes and that wretched estate and condition wherein we are; and happily having a companion in them, it would help to ease me in some sort of my torment, and make that burthen of my grief the lighter, which I find so heavy — I had almost said insupportable — for me to bear. Yet there is some hope left unto thee, that these thy strong towers dismantled and laid level with the ground, thou mayst one day see them, though not in so just a defence as that wherein they were overthrown, raised to their former height and strength. But I, of all unfortunate the most unfortunate man, what good can I hope for in that miserable strait wherein I find myself, yea, though I should return to the same estate and condition wherein I was before I

fell into this? Such is my misfortune that when I was free and at liberty I knew not what happiness was, and now in my thraldom and captivity I neither have it nor hope it."

These words did a Christian captive utter, looking with a sad and heavy countenance from the rising of a hill on the ruined walls of the late-lost Nicosia; and thus did he talk with them, and compared his miseries with theirs, as if they had been able to understand him (the common and proper condition of afflicted persons, who being violently carried away with their own feigned fancies and imaginary conceptions, do and say things beyond all reason, and without any good discourse and advisement).

Now, whilst he was thus discoursing with himself, from out a pavilion, or one of those tents pitched there in the field, not far from him, issued out a Turk, a handsome young man, of a good presence, an ingenious aspect, and accompanied with spirit and mettle answerable to his looks; who drawing near unto the Christian, without much ceremony, yet in a fair and civil way, said unto him, "Sir, I durst lay a wager with you that those your pensive thoughts which I read in your face have brought you hither."

"You read aright," answered Ricardo (for this was the captive's name); "they have brought me hither indeed. But what doth it avail me, since in no place whithersoever I go I am so far from procuring a peace that I cannot obtain a truce or any the least cessation of them? Nay, rather, these ruins which



LOOKING ON THE WALLS OF THE LATE-LOST NICOSIA.

from hence discover themselves unto me have rather increased my sorrows."

"Those of Nicosia you mean?" replied the Turk.

"What other should I mean," answered Ricardo, "since there are no other which here offer themselves to my view?"

"You have great cause," quoth the Turk, "to weep if you entertain your thoughts with these and the like contemplations; for they who but some two years since had seen this famous and rich island of Cyprus in its prosperity and peaceable estate, the inhabitants thereof enjoying all that human happiness and felicity which the Heavens could grant unto men or themselves desire, and now to see them banished out of it or made miserable slaves in it, who can be so hard-hearted as to forbear from bewailing its calamity and misfortune? But let us leave talking of these things, since they are remediless, and let us come to your own bosom sorrows, for I desire to see if they be such as you voice them to be; and therefore I earnestly entreat and beseech you, and conjure thee by that which thou owest to those good offices I have done thee, the goodwill I bear thee, the love I have shown thee, and by that which ought to oblige thee thereunto, in that we are both of one and the same country and bred up in our childhood together, that thou wilt deal freely with me, and lay open unto me what is the cause which makes thee so exceeding sad and melancholy. For howbeit captivity alone of itself be sufficient to grieve the stoutest heart in the

world and to check its mirth, though otherwise naturally inclined thereunto, yet notwithstanding I imagine that the current of your disasters hath a farther reach and deeper bottom; for generous minds such as thine is, do not use to yield and render up themselves to common and ordinary misfortunes in such a measure as to make show of extraordinary sorrows; and I am the rather induced to believe what I conceive because I know that you are not so poor but that you are well enough able to pay any reasonable ransom they shall require of you, nor are you clapped up in the towers of the Black Sea as a prisoner of note or captive of consideration, who late or never obtains his desired liberty, and therefore your ill fortune not having taken from you the hope of seeing yourself a free man; and yet notwithstanding all this, when I see thee so much overcharged with sorrows, and making such miserable manifestations of thy misfortunes, it is not much that I imagine that the pain proceeds from some other cause than thy lost liberty, which I entreat thee to acquaint me withal, offering thee all the assistance I am able to give thee. Perhaps, to the end that I may be serviceable unto thee, Fortune in her wheeling hath brought this about that I should be clad in this habit which I so much hate and abhor. Thou knowest already, Ricardo, that my master is Cadi of this city, which is the same as to be its Bishop; thou likewise knowest the great sway which he beareth here, and how much I am able to do with him; together with this, thou art not ignorant

of the fervent desire and inflamed zeal which I have not to die in this estate which I thus seem to profess. But God knows my heart, and if ever I should come to be put to my trial, I am resolved openly to confess and in a loud voice to publish to the whole world the faith of Jesus Christ, from which my few years and less understanding separated me, though that I were sure that such a confession should cost me my life; for that I may free myself from losing that of my soul, I should think the losing of that of my body very well employed. Out of all this which hath been said unto thee, I leave it to thyself to infer the conclusion, and that thou wilt take it into thy deeper and better consideration whether my proffered friendship may be profitable and useful unto thee. Now that I may know what remedies thy misfortune requires, and what medicines I may apply both for the easing and curing of it, it is requisite that thou recount it unto me, the relation thereof being as necessary for me as that of the rich patient to his physician; assuring thee, in the faith of a friend, that thou shalt deposit it in the deepest and darkest den of silence, never to come to light."

To all these words of his Ricardo gave an attentive ear, though his tongue were silent; but seeing himself obliged by them and his own necessity, returned him thereunto this answer: "If as thou hast hit the right vein, O my dear friend Mahamut" (for so was this Turk called), "touching that which thou imaginest of my misfortune, thou couldst hit as

right upon its remedy, I should hold myself happy in my lost liberty, and would not change my unhappiness for the greatest happiness that may be imagined. But I wot well that it is such that all the world may take notice of the cause whence it proceedeth, but that man cannot therein be found which dare undertake not only the finding out of any remedy for it, but of giving it any the least ease; and to the end that thou mayst rest thyself thoroughly satisfied of the truth thereof, I will relate the same unto thee as briefly and compendiously as I can, shutting up much in a few words. But before I enter into this confused labyrinth of my miseries, I would first have thee to recount unto me what is the cause why Azam Bashaw, my master, hath pitched here in this field these tents and pavilions before he maketh his entry into Nicosia, being deputed (and to that purpose bringing his provision with him) to be Viceroy there, or Bashaw, the usual style or title which the Turks give their Viceroys."

"I will," answered Mahamut, "answer your demand in a few words, and therefore would have you to know that it is a custom amongst the Turks that they who come to be Viceroys of some province do not instantly enter into the city where their predecessor resideth, till he issueth out of it, and leave the residence freely to his successors. Now, when the new Bashaw hath made his entrance, the old one stays without in the field, expecting what accusations shall come against him, and what misdemeanours

during his government they shall lay to his charge, which being alleged and proved, are recorded and a note taken of them, all possibility being taken away from him of interviewing, either to help himself by suborning of witnesses, or by his friends, unless he have made his way beforehand, for the clearing of himself. Now, the other being settled in his residency, there is given by him to him that leaves his charge, a scroll of parchment sealed up very close, and therewith he presents himself at the gate of the Grand Signior—that is to say, in the court before the Grand Council of the Great Turk; which being seen and perused by the Visir-Bashaw, and by those other four inferior Bashaws, they either reward or punish him according to the relation that is made of his residency. In case that he come home faulty, with money he redeems and excuseth his punishment; but if faultless, and they do not reward him—as commonly it falleth out—with gifts and presents, he procureth that charge which himself most affecteth; for places of command and offices are not given for merit, but for money; all is sold, and all bought. They who have the provision, or, as we style it, commission and authority for the conferring of charges and offices, rob those which are to have these offices and charges, and fleece them as near as the shears can go; and they, again, out of this their bought office gather wealth and substance for to buy another which promiseth much more gain. All goes as I tell you; all this empire is violent—a sign that it will not last

long. For that reason, then, that I have rendered thee, thy master Azam Bashaw hath remained in this field four days; and he of Nicosia, that he hath not as yet come forth as he ought to have done, the cause is that he hath been very sick, but is now upon the mending hand, and will without fail come forth either to-day or to-morrow at the farthest, and is to lodge in certain tents which are pitched behind this rising hill, which as yet thou hast not seen; and thy master is forthwith to enter into the city. And having made this already delivered known unto thee is all the satisfaction that I can give to your propounded demand."

"Listen then unto me," replied Ricardo; "but I know not whether I shall be as good as my word in complying with that which I formerly promised, that I would in a few words recount unto you my misfortunes, they being so large that to make up the full measure of them I want words enough to do it; yet notwithstanding I will do herein what may be, and as time and your patience will permit. But let me first of all ask you if you know in our town of Trapana a damosel to whom fame hath given the name of the fairest woman in all Sicily, in whose praise all curious tongues have spent themselves, and of whom the rarest judgments have ratified that she was the perfectest piece of beauty that the past age had, the present hath, and that which is to come can hope to have; one of whom the poets sang that her hairs were golden wires, her eyes two resplendent suns,

and her cheeks pure damask roses, her teeth pearls, her lips rubies, her neck alabaster, and that her parts with the whole frame, and the whole with her parts, made up a most pleasing harmony and most harmonious concord, Nature spreading over the whole composure such a sweet delightfulness of colours, so natural and so perfect, that envy itself cannot tax her in any one particular. And is it possible, Mahamut, that all this while thou hast not told me yet who she is, and by what name she is called? I undoubtedly believe that either thou dost not hear me, or that when thou wast in Trapana thou didst want thy senses."

Mahamut hereunto answered, "that if she whom thou hast set forth with such extremes of beauty be not Leonisa, the daughter of Rodolphus Florencius, I know not who she is; for she alone had that fame which you speak of."

"This is she, O Mahamut," replied Ricardo; "this is she, O my dear friend, who is the principal cause of all my felicity and of all my misfortune. This is she, and not my lost liberty, for whom mine eyes have, do, and shall shed tears not to be numbered; this is she for whom my heart-burning sighs inflame the air far and near; and this is she for whom my words weary Heaven which hears them, and the ears of those which hearken unto them. This is she for whom thou tookest me to be mad, or at least for a man of small worth and less courage. This Leonisa, to me a lioness, and to another a meek and gentle

lamb, is she which holds me in this wretched and miserable estate; for I must give thee to understand that from my tender years, or at least ever since I had the use of reason, I did not only love but adore her, and did serve her with such solicitude and devotion as if neither on earth nor in heaven there were any other deity for me to serve and adore save herself. Her kinsfolk and parents knew my desires, considering withal that they were directed to an honest and virtuous end; and that therefore, many a time and oft, which escaped not my knowledge, they acquainted Leonisa with the fervent love and affection I bare unto her, for the better disposing of her will to accept me for her husband. But she, who had placed her eyes on Cornelio, the son of Ascanio Rotulo (whom you know very well, a young gallant, neat and spruce, with white hands and curled hairs, having a mellifluous voice, and amorous words at will, and in a word, being all made of amber, musk, and civet, clad in tissue, adorned with rich embroideries), would not vouchsafe to cast so much as one glance of her eye on my countenance, which was not so delicate as that of Cornelio, neither would entertain, notwithstanding my best endeavours to please her, with thankfulness my many and continual services, requiting my goodwill with disdain and hatred. And to such extremes did the excess of my love bring me, that I should have held myself happy had her disdains and unkindnesses killed me outright, that I might not have lived to have seen her confer such

open though honest favours on Cornelio. Consider now, being anguished with disdain and hatred, and almost mad with the cruel rage of jealousy, in what miserable case you may imagine my soul was, two such mortal plagues reigning therein. Leonisa's parents dissembled those favours which she did to Cornelio, believing, as they had good reason to believe it, that the young man, attracted by her most exquisite and incomparable beauty, which none could match but her own, would make choice of her for his spouse, and so in him gain a richer son-in-law than in me: and well, if he were so, might he be so. But I dare be bold to say, without arrogancy be it spoken, that as good blood runs in my veins as his, my quality and condition nothing inferior to his; and for his mind, it cannot be more noble than mine, nor his valour go beyond mine. But that indeed which did overbalance me was Leonisa's favour and her parents' furthering the business, and this only made the scales uneven by their inclining to Cornelio. Now it so fell out, that persisting in the pursuit of my pretensions, it came to my knowledge that one day in the month of May last past, which this very day makes up a year, three days, and five hours, Leonisa, her parents, and Cornelio and some friends of his, went to solace themselves, accompanied with their kindred and servants, to Ascanio his garden, near adjoining to the seaside, in the way that leads to the salt-pits."

"I know that place passing well," said Mahamut;

"go on, Ricardo. I was more than four days in one of them; I could have wished I had been there but four minutes."

"I knew that," replied Ricardo, "and in that very instant that I knew it my soul was possessed with such a fury, such a rage, and such a hell of jealousies, and with that vehemency and rigour, that it bereaved me of my senses, as thou shalt plainly see, by that which I presently did, which was this: I hied me to the garden where I was told they were, where I found most of the company solacing themselves, and Cornelio and Leonisa sitting under a walnut-tree, somewhat out of the way from the rest. How my sight pleased them I do not know, but know, to say so much of myself, that her sight wrought so upon me that I lost the sight of mine own eyes, and stood stock still like a statua, without either voice or motion. But I continued not long so before that my anger awakened my choler, choler heated my blood, my blood inflamed rage, and rage gave motion to my hands and tongue. Howbeit my hands were bound by the respect which, methought, was due to that fair face which I had before me; but my tongue breaking silence, vented forth these words: 'How canst thou find in thy heart, how give thyself content, O thou mortal enemy of my rest! in having (and therein taking so much pleasure) before thine eyes the cause which must make mine to overflow with rivers of tears, and by my continual weeping become another deluge? Come, come—cruel

as thou art!—a little nearer, and wreathe thy twining ivy about this unprofitable trunk, which woos thy embracings. Let him lay his head in thy lap, and let thy fingers learn to play with those braided locks of this thy new Ganymede. What thou wilt do, do quickly; make an end at once of delivering up the possession of thyself to the green and ungoverned years of this your minion, to the end that I, losing all hope of obtaining thee, may together with that end this my life, so much by me abhorred. Thinkest thou, peradventure, thou proud and ill-advised damosel! that this young princox, presumptuous by reason of his riches, arrogant by your gracing of him, unexperienced in that he is too young, and insolent by his relying on his lineage, will love as he ought, and you deserve? No, he cannot; no, he knows not how to love constantly, nor to esteem that which is inestimable, nor come to have that understanding and knowledge which accompanies ripe and experimented years. If you think so, do not think it; for the world hath no other good thing save the doing of its actions always after one and the same manner; for none are deceived but by their own ignorance. In young men there is much inconstancy; in rich, pride; vanity in the arrogant; in the beautiful, disdain; and in those that have all these, foolishness, which is the mother of all ill success. And thou, O young gallant! art such a one who thinkest to carry all before thee, and to go clear away with that reward which is more due to my good desires than thy

idle protestations. Why dost thou not arise from that carpet of flowers whereon thou liest, and come to take this my soul from me, which so deadly hateth thine? Not because thou offendest me in that which thou doest, but because thou knowest not how to esteem that good which fortune gives thee; and it is clear and evident that thou makest little reckoning of it, since thou wilt not rise up to defend it, that thou mayst not put thyself to the hazard of discomposing that painted composure of thy gay clothes. If Achilles had had thy reposed condition, or been of thy cold temper, Ulysses might very well have been assured that he would not have gone through with that which he undertook. Go, get thee gone, and sport thyself amongst thy mother's maids, and there have a care of kembing and curling thy locks, and keeping thy hands clean and white; thou art fitter to handle soft silks than a hard-hilted sword.' All these words could not move Cornelio to rise from the place where I found him, but sate him still, looking upon me as one aghast, not once offering to stir. But the voice wherewith I uttered these words which you have heard occasioned the people which were walking in the garden to draw nearer, stood a little while listening, hearing many other disgraceful speeches which I gave him, and thereupon made in; who, taking courage by their coming (for all or most of them were his kinsfolk, servants, or friends), he made show of rising; but before he was fully upon his feet I laid hand on my sword, drew it, and did

set not only upon him, but on as many as were there. Leonisa no sooner saw my glittering sword but she fell into a deadly swound, which did put greater courage into me, and stir up greater despite; and I cannot say whether those so many which did set upon me sought only to defend themselves, as we see men usually do against a furious madman, or whether it were my good fortune and diligence, or Heaven's disposing, to expose me to greater evils, and to reserve me to farther miseries; in conclusion, I wounded seven or eight of them which came next to my hand. Cornelio betook himself to his heels, and by his swift flight escaped my hands. Being in this so manifest a danger hemmed in by my enemies, who now, seeing their blood run from them, and enraged with the wrong which they had received, sought to revenge themselves upon me, lo! Fortune provided a remedy for this mischief, but such a one as was worse than the disease; for better had it been for me there to have left my life, than in restoring it me by so strange and unexpected a means, to come to lose it every hour a thousand and a thousand times over and over. And this it was, that on the sudden there rushed into the garden a great number of Turks, pirates of Biserta, who with two galleys had put into a little creek of the sea between two rocks hard by the shore, where they disembarked themselves without being heard or seen by the sentinels of the watch-towers, nor discovered by those scouts whose daily office it was to scour the coasts and see that

all was clear. When my adversaries had espied them, leaving me alone, they, with the rest in the garden, ran their way as fast as their legs would carry them, and shifted so well for themselves that they had got themselves out of their danger and put themselves in safety; so that of all the whole companies the Turks took no more captives but three persons besides Leonisa, who lay there still in a swound. They took me after they had shrewdly wounded me in four several places, revenged before by me on four Turks whom I left dead in the place. This assault ended, the Turks with their accustomed diligence, and not being very well pleased with the success, made haste to embark themselves, and presently put farther to sea, so that what with their sails and help of their oars, in a short space they recovered Fabiana, where they mustered their men, and finding that the slain were four soldiers, Levant-men, as they call them, being of the best and choicest and of most esteem amongst them, they were the more willing and desirous to take their revenge of me, and therefore the admiral of the captain-galley commanded them to hang me up on the mainyard. All this while Leonisa stood looking on this speedy preparation for my death (who was now come again to herself), and seeing me in the power of these pirates, the tears trickled down in great abundance from her beauteous eyes, and wringing her soft and delicate hands, not speaking so much as one word, gave diligent ear and was very attentive to hear if she could understand what the Turks said. But one of

the Christian slaves that was chained to the oar spake to her in Italian, giving her to understand how that the captain had given order to have that Christian hanged up (pointing unto me), because I had slain in her defence four of the best soldiers belonging to his galleys; which being heard and understood by Leonisa (being the first time that ever she showed herself pitiful towards me), she willed the said slave that he should speak unto the Turks to spare his life, and not to hang him, for in so doing they would lose a great ransom, and that he should advise them to tack about and make again for Trapana, where his ransom would presently be brought aboard unto them. This, I say, was the first and the last kindness which Leonisa used towards me, and all this for my greater ill. The Turks hearing what their captive told them, did easily believe him, and this their hope of profit turned the course of their choler. The very next morning, hanging out a flag of peace, they anchored before Trapana. That night thou mayst better conceive than I utter with what a deal of grief I passed it over, not so much for my wounds' sake, though they were very sore and painful, as to think on the peril wherein my cruel enemy was amongst these barbarous people. Being come now, as I told thee, to the city, one of the galleys entered the haven, the other stood off. All the citizens flocked to the seaside, the Christians standing as thick one by another as the shore would give them leave. And that carpet-knight Cornelio stood afar off observing

what passed in the galley whilst my steward was treating of my ransom; to whom I had given order that he should in no wise treat of my liberty, but of that of Leonisa, and that he should give for the freeing of her all whatsoever I was worth either in lands or goods; and I willed him, moreover, that he should go ashore and tell Leonisa's parents that they should leave it to him to treat of their daughter's liberty. This being done, the chief captain, who was a Grecian, but a renegado, his name Ysuph, demanded for Leonisa six thousand crowns, and for myself four thousand, and that he would not sell the one without the other; setting this so great a price, as I was given afterwards to understand, because he was enamoured of Leonisa, and was therefore unwilling she should be redeemed; purposing to give to the captain of the other galley, with whom he was to share the one half of the prize, myself at the rate of four thousand crowns in ready money, and one thousand more in other commodities, which made up five thousand, prizing Leonisa at other five thousand; and this was the reason why he rated us two in ten thousand crowns. Leonisa's parents offered him nothing on their part, relying on the promise which on my part my steward had made them; neither did Cornelio so much as once open his lips to offer anything towards her ransom; and so, after many demands and answers, my steward concluded the business with giving for Leonisa five thousand and for me three thousand crowns. Ysuph accepted this offer, forced thereunto

by the persuasions of his companion and all the rest of their soldiers. But because my steward had not so much money in cash, he entreated only three days' time to make up the full sum, with intention to sell my goods under hand and at a cheap rate, till he had got so much together as would pay the ransom. Ysuph was glad of this, thinking with himself in the meanwhile to find some occasion that the bargain might not go forward; and so returning back again to the island of Fabiana, he said that by that time the three days were expired he would not fail to be there with them to receive the money according to the agreement. But spiteful and ungrateful Fortune, not yet wearied out with ill-entreating me, had so ordained it that a galley's boy, who sate on the top of the mast as the Turks' sentinel, discovered afar off at sea six Italian galleys, and did guess (which was true) that they were either of Malta or Sicily. He came running down with all the haste he could to give them news thereof, and in a trice the Turks embarked themselves who were ashore, some dressing their dinner, some washing their linen, and weighing anchor in an instant, hoising sail and working hard with their oars, turning their prows towards Barbary, in less than two hours they lost the sight of those galleys, and so being shadowed with the island, and covered from ken by the approaching night, they were secured from that fear which affrighted them. Now I leave it to thy good consideration, my friend Mahamut how much my mind was troubled in this voyage, find-

ing it to fall out so cross and contrary to that which I expected; and much more when, the next day, the two galleys reaching the island of Pantanalea on the south part, the Turks went ashore to get them wood and fresh victuals; but most of all, when I saw both the captains land, and fell to sharing between them in equal proportion all those prizes they had taken, each action of these was to me a delayed death. Coming then at last to the dividing of myself and Leonisa, Ysuph gave to Fetala (for so was that captain of the other galley called) six Christians, four for the oar, and two very beautiful boys, both naturals of Corso, and myself likewise with them, that he might have Leonisa for himself; wherewith Fetala rested very well contented. And albeit I were present at all this, I could not understand what they said, though I knew what they did; neither had I known then the manner of their sharings if Fetala had not come unto me and told me in Italian, 'Christian, thou art now mine, and put into my hands as my captive, thou being rated at two thousand crowns; if thou wilt have thy liberty, thou must give me four thousand, or resolve here to end thy days.' I then demanded of him whether the Christian damosel were his too; he told me no, but that Ysuph kept her for himself, with intention to make her turn Moor and then marry her. And therein he said true, for one of the galley-slaves told me that sate chained on his bank at his oar, and understood very well the Turkish language, that he overheard Ysuph and Fetala treating thereof.



HE EMBARKED HIMSELF AT CADIZ

Whereupon I came to my master and told him, 'Sir, if you will bring the business so about that the Christian damosel may become your captive, I will give you ten thousand crowns in good gold for her ransom.' He replied, 'it was not possible, but I will acquaint Ysuph with this great sum which thou offerest for her freedom, and perhaps, weighing the profit he shall reap thereby, he will alter his purpose, and accept of the ransom.' He did so; and then presently commanded all those of his own galley to embark themselves as soon as possibly they could, because he would go for Tripoli in Barbary, whence he was. And Ysuph likewise determined to go for Biserta, and so embarked with the selfsame haste as they use to do when they ken either galleys which they fear or vessels which they mind to rob; and that which moved them to make the more haste was that they saw the weather began to change, with manifest signs of a storm. Leonisa was on land, but not there where I might see her, save only at the time of her embarking, where we both met at the seaside. This her new lover led her by the hand, and setting her foot upon the plank which reached from the land to the galley, she turned back her eyes to look upon me, and mine, which never were off from her, looked wishly on her, but with such tenderness, that without knowing how such a cloud was cast before them, that it took away my eyesight, and being robbed of it and of my senses, I fell in a swound to the ground. The like they afterwards told me befell Leonisa; for they saw her

fall from the plank into the sea, and that Ysuph leapt in after her, and brought her out thence in his arms. This was told me by those of my master's galley, whereinto they had put me, I not knowing how I came there. But when I came again to myself, and saw myself alone in that galley, and the other steering a contrary course and gone clean out of sight from us, carrying away with them the one half of my soul, or, to say better, all of it, my heart was clouded anew, and I began anew to curse my misfortune, and called out aloud for death. And such and so great was the moan and lamentation I made, that my master's ears being offended therewith, threatened with a great cudgel that if I did not hold my peace he would severely punish me; whereupon I repressed my tears and smothered my sighs, thinking that the violent restraining of them would break out the more forcibly in some one part or other, and open a door to let my soul out, which I so earnestly desired might relinquish this my miserable body. But froward Fortune not contenting herself to have put me into this so narrow a strait, took a course to overthrow all by taking from me all hope of remedy; for in an instant the storm we so much feared overtook us, and the wind, which blew strongly from the south, blew full in the teeth of us, and began with such fury to reinforce itself that we were forced to tack about, putting the prow in the poop's place, suffering our galley to go which way the wind would carry her. Our captain's design was, by fetching of boards, to

have put into some part of the island for shelter, and more particularly on the north part thereof; but it fell not out answerably to his expectation, but rather quite contrary to what he had designed; for the wind charged us with such impetuousness that [despite] all that which we had sailed in two days, within little more than fourteen hours we saw ourselves within two leagues or thereabout of the same island from whence he had put forth; and now there was no remedy for hindering our being driven upon it, and not to run ourselves upon some sandy shore, but amongst very high rocks, which presented themselves to our view, threatening inevitable death to our lives. We saw on the one side of us that other our fellow-galley wherein was Leonisa, and all their Turks, and captive-rowers labouring hard with their oars to keep themselves off as well as they could from running upon the rocks. The like did we in ours, but with better success it should seem, and greater force and strength than the other, who, being tired out with their travail, and overcome by the stiffness of the wind and blustering storm, forsaking their oars, and with them abandoning themselves, they suffered themselves, we looking upon them, to fall amongst the rocks, against which the galley dashing itself, was split in a thousand pieces. Night was then drawing on, and so great was the cry of those that gave themselves for lost, and the fright of those who in our vessel feared to be lost, that not any one of those many things which our captain commanded was either understood or done by them;

only they did attend the not foregoing of their oars, plying them still, holding it for their best remedy to turn the prow to the wind and to cast two anchors into the sea, to keep off death for a while, which they held to be certain. And although the fear of dying was general in all of them, yet in me was it quite contrary; for, fed with the deceitful hope of seeing her in that other world who was so lately departed out of this, every minute that the galley deferred its drowning or splitting against the rocks was to me an age of a more painful death. The high-swollen waves which passed over the top of our weatherbeaten vessel and my head made me very watchful to see whether or no I could espy floating upon those crump-shouldered billows the body of unfortunate Leonisa. But I will not detain myself now, O Mahamut, in recounting unto thee piece by piece the passions, the fears, the anguishes, the thoughts, which in that tedious and terrible night I had and passed, that I may not go against that which before I propounded and promised, in relating briefly unto thee my misfortune. Suffice it that they were such and so great that if Death had come to me at that time, he needed not to have taken any great pains in taking away my life. Day appeared, but with appearance of a far greater storm than the former, and we found that our vessel lay riding out at sea, and a good ways off from the rocks; and having descried a point of the island, and perceiving that we might easily double it, both Turks and Christians began to be of good cheer, taking

new hopes and new hearts unto them, fell anew to their work; in six hours we doubled the point, and found the sea more calm and quiet, insomuch that with a great deal more ease they could handle and use their oars; and coming under lee of the island, the Turks leapt out to land, and went to see if there were any relics remaining of the galley which the night before fell on the rocks. But even then, too, would not Fortune be so favourable unto me as to give me that poor comfort which I hoped to have had of seeing Leonisa's body in these my arms, which though dead and broken I would have been glad to have seen it, for to break that impossibility which my star had put upon me of linking myself therewith, as my desires well deserved, and therefore entreated one of the renegadoes to disembark himself to go in search thereof, and to see if the rolling of the sea had cast her on the shore. But, as I told thee, all this did Heaven deny me; and just in that very instant the wind began to rise and the sea grow rough, so that the shelter of that island was not of any benefit at all unto us. Fetala, seeing this, would not strive against Fortune, who had so violently persecuted him, and therefore commanded them to right and fit the galley to bear a little sail, and to turn the prow to the seaward and the poop to the windward; and he himself taking charge of the rudder, sate at the helm, suffering her to run through the wide sea, being well assured that no impediment would cross its course. The oars bare themselves very even, being seated very orderly

on their banks, and all the rest of the company got them into the hold underneath the hatches, so that there was not a man to be seen on the deck save the master, who for his more safety caused himself to be bound fast to his seat, giving thence direction to the rowers for the better governing and guiding of the vessel, which made its way with that swiftness that in three days and three nights, passing in sight of Trapana, of Melazo, and Palermo, she imboked by the Pharos of Messina, to the wonderful fear of those that were in her, and of those likewise which beheld them on the land. In fine, not to be tedious in recounting unto thee the terribleness of this tempest, which is beyond all expression, I say, that being weary, hungry, and tired out with such a large compass about as was the rounding of almost all the whole island of Sicily. we arrived at Tripoli in Barbary, where my master (before that he had reckoned with his Levant-men, shared out the spoils, and given that unto them which was their due, and a fifth to the King, as the custom is) fell sick of a pleurisy, accompanied with a burning fever, in that violent manner that within three days it sent him packing to hell. The King of Tripoli seized presently upon all his goods, and the Alcaide de los Muertos, which is an office of inquiry concerning the dead, substituted by the Great Turk, who, as you know, is heir to those that are his natural subjects after their deaths. These two possessed themselves of all my master Fetala's wealth, and I fell into the hands of him who was the Viceroy of Tripoli, and within

fifteen days after he received his patent for Cyprus, with whom, you see, I am come hither, but without any intention at all to ransom myself, though he hath often told me that I should if I would, and wondered why I did not do it all this while, being, as Fetala's soldiers told him, a principal person and a man of good means in his own country; but I was so far from entertaining that motion that I told him that they had misinformed him of my fortunes. And if thou wilt, Mahamut, that I acquaint thee truly with what I think, know thou then that I will never return back again to that place, where I can no ways receive any comfort, and where Leonisa's death will in part, if not wholly, be imputed unto me. What pleasure then can I take, either there or here, in this my thraldom, though I must confess that the remembrance of her loss is more grievous unto me than a thousand captivities? And if it be true that continual sorrows must of force have an end, or end him who suffers them, mine cannot choose but do it, for I am resolved to give them such a loose rein that within a few days they shall give an end to this my miserable life, which I hold so much against my will. This, O my brother Mahamut, is my sad success; this is the cause of these my sighs and tears. Behold now and consider if this be not sufficient for to hale the one from out the deepest bottom of my bowels, and to exhale the other from out my afflicted and tormented bosom? Leonisa is dead, and with her my hope; and though that which I had (she living) hung but by a

small and slender thread, yet—yet"— And with this "yet" his tongue clave so close to the roof of his mouth that he could not speak one word more, nor refrain from weeping, whose tears, drop after drop, one overtaking another, trickled down his face in such abundance that the ground was all wet whereon they fell. Mahamut accompanied those with his tears.

But this paroxysm being over-past, caused by relating this sad story and calling to mind his lost Leonisa, Mahamut was very willing, and withal went about to comfort him all that he could, with as good terms and persuasions as possibly he could devise. But Ricardo did cut him short of telling him: "That which thou art, my dear friend, to do is, that thou wilt advise me what course I shall take for to fall into disgrace with my master, and with all those with whom I shall converse, that being hated and abhorred by him and by them, the one and the other might ill-entreat me, and persecute me in such sort that, adding sorrow to sorrow, I may speedily obtain that which I so earnestly desire, which is, to end my life."

"Now I find that to be true," said Mahamut, "which is commonly spoken: 'Lo que se sabe sentir, se sabe decir'—He that knows his grief, knows how to speak it—though sometimes it so happeneth that it maketh the tongue dumb. But howsoever it be, whether thy sorrows reach to thy words, or thy words outgo thy sorrows, thou shalt ever, Ricardo, find me thy true friend either for assistance or for counsel; for albeit my few years and the inconsiderateness

which I have committed in putting myself into this habit may cry out against me that of neither of these two things which I offer thee thou mayst have any confidence or hope, yet will I endeavour to the utmost of my power that this suspicion may not prove true, nor any such opinion be held for certain. And albeit thou wilt not neither be advised nor assisted by me, yet will I not leave off doing that which shall be fitting and convenient for thee; as good physicians use to deal with their sick patients, who do not give them that which they crave, but what they think convenient for them to have. There is not any in all this city that can do or prevail more than the Cadi my master; no, not even thine, who comes to be Viceroy thereof, is so powerful as he. This being so as it is, I dare be bold to say that I am the man that can do most in this city, because I can do whatsoever I will with my master. I speak this, because it may be I shall so plot the business with him, and bring it so handsomely about, that thou mayst come to be his; and being in my company, time will teach us that which we are to do, as well for to comfort thee, if thou wilt or canst be comforted, as likewise for myself to get out of this to a better life, or at least to some place where it may be more safe when I leave this."

"I kindly thank you, Mahamut," replied Ricardo, "for your proffered friendship, though sure I am that when thou hast done all thou canst do, thou canst not do anything that can do me any good. But let

us now give over this discourse and make towards the tents; for, if my eyesight deceive me not, I see a great press of people coming out of the city, and doubtless it is the old Viceroy, who comes forth into the field for to give place unto my master, that he may enter the city to make his residence."

"It is even so," said Mahamut. "Come along with me, Ricardo, and thou shalt see the ceremonies wherewith they receive him, for I know thou wilt take pleasure in seeing them."

"With a very good will," answered Ricardo; "for peradventure I shall have need of thee, if happily the guardian of my master's captives should happen to meet with me, who is a renegado, and by birth of Corso, but of no very pitiful and tender bowels."

Here they left off any farther communication, and came to the tents just at that very instant as the old Bashaw came thither, and the new one came forth to receive him at the door of the tent. Ali Bashaw (for so was he called who left the government) came accompanied with all the Janizaries, being the ordinary garrison soldiers in Nicosia ever since the Turks were masters of it, being to the number of five hundred. They came in two wings or files, the one with their muskets and the other with naked cimetars. They came to the tent of the new Bashaw Hazan, rounding it from one side at the door thereof till they met at the other, where Ali Bashaw, bowing his body, made a lowly reverence to Hazan, and he, with a less inclining himself, re-saluted him.

This done, Ali presently entered into Hazan's pavilion, where the Turks presently mounted him upon a proud horse, with wondrous rich furniture, and conducting him round about the tents and a good part of the field, clamouring out with loud acclamations in their own language, "Long live Solyman Sultan, and Hazan Bashaw in his name!" They repeated this very often, reinforcing their voices and vociferations, and then presently returned back again to the tent, where Ali Bashaw remained, who with the Cadi and Hazan shut themselves up close for the space of one hour all alone. Mahamut then told Ricardo that they had thus retired themselves to treat of that which was fit to be done in the city touching such businesses as were commenced but not finished by Ali. Within a little while after the Cadi came forth to the door of the tent, and said with a loud voice in the Turkish, Arabic, and Greek tongue, "That all they who would enter to crave justice or to lay any other matter against Ali Bashaw might have free entrance; for there was Hazan Bashaw, whom the Grand Signior hath sent for Viceroy of Cyprus, who would do them all right and justice." This license being given, the Janizaries left the door of the tent disoccupied, and gave way to such as would enter in. Mahamut wrought Ricardo to go in with him, who, for that they were Hazan's slaves, had without any hindrance free access thereunto.

There entered to crave justice some Greek Christians and some Turks, but all of them charging him with such trifling things and of so small moment that

the Cadi despatched most of them without giving a copy to the defendant, without further examination, demands, and answers: for all causes, unless they be matrimonial, are despatched in an instant, more by the judgment of a good understanding man than the quirks of law. And amongst these Barbarians (if they be so in this particular) the Cadi is the competent judge of all causes, who doth abbreviate them and determine them in the turning of a hand, and forthwith pronounceth sentence, without any appealing therefro to any other tribunal.

In this interim entered in a Chauz, which is as it were an Alquazil, and said that there was a Jew at the tent door who had brought to be sold a most fair and beautiful Christian; the Cadi commanded that they should bid him come in. The Chauz went forth, and presently came in again, leading the way to a venerable Jew, who led by the hand a woman in a Barbary habit, so well made and set forth that the richest Moor in Fez or Morocco was not able to compare therewith, for in her whole dress throughout she surpassed all the African women; yea, though even those of Argiers should have presented themselves there with all their pearls and rich embroideries. She came in having her face covered with a scarf of crimson taffeta; about the smalls of her legs (which discovered themselves) there appeared two golden chains of pure burnished gold; and on her arms, which likewise through a smock of sendall, or thin taffeta sarcenet were transparent, and showed them-

selves to the searching curious eyes of the beholders, she ware two bracelets of gold, wherein were set scatteringly here and there many fair pearls and precious stones. In conclusion, the fashion of her clothes and all other habiliments about her were such that she presented herself before them most richly and gorgeously attired.

The Cadi and the other two Bashaws upon the very first sight of her being mightily taken, before any other thing was said or questioned by them, they willed the Jew that he should take the scarf from off the Christian's face. He did so, and withal did discover such a splendour and such a beautiful countenance as did dazzle the eyes and glad the hearts of all the standers-by. As the sun scarfed with clouds after much darkness offers itself to the eyes of those who long for its desired presence, such and no otherwise than such was the beauty of this captived Christian in this her bravery and gallantry.

But he on whom this wonderful light which was discovered wrought the greatest and deepest impression was this our sorrowful Ricardo, as one who better than any other knew her, since that she was his cruel and beloved Leonisa, who so often and with so many tears had by him been reputed and deplored for dead. With the sudden and unexpected sight of the singular beauty of this Christian the heart of Ali was wounded and captivated, and in the same degree and with the selfsame wound Hazan found himself touched; the Cadi himself not being exempted from

this amorous wound, who, more perplexed than both the other, knew not how to remove his eyes from looking on those fairer lights of Leonisa. And for to endear the great and powerful force of love, I would have thee to take notice that at one and the same instant there was bred in the hearts of all these three one and the same (as they flattered themselves) firm hope of obtaining and enjoying her; and therefore, without questioning how, where, and when the Jew came by her, they only asked him what he would take for her. The covetous Jew answered, "Two thousand crowns." But he had scarce set the price but that Ali Bashaw said unto him that he would give him so much for her, and that he would go to his tent and presently bring him his money.

But Hazan Bashaw, who was minded that he should not have her, though therein he should hazard his life, said, "I likewise will give for her those two thousand crowns which the Jew demandeth; yet would I neither give so much, neither set myself to cross Ali herein, or what he hath offered, did not that enforce me thereunto, which he himself shall confess is reason, and doth oblige and force me to do as I do, and this it is, that this Gentile slave appertaineth not to either of us two, but only to the Grand Signior, and therefore I say that in his name I buy her. Now let us see who dare be so bold as to offer to take her from me?"

"Marry, that dare I," replied Ali, "because for the selfsame end and purpose do I buy her; and it apper-

taineth more especially unto me to tender this present to the Grand Signior, in regard of the conveniency that I have to convey her forthwith to Constantinople, carrying her along with me, that thereby I may gain the goodwill of the Grand Signior. For I being now a man, as thou now, Hazan, seest, without any charge or command, I had need seek out some means to procure it, wherein thou art surely settled for three years, since that this is the very first day in which thou beginnest to bear rule and to govern this rich kingdom of Cyprus; and therefore, as well for these reasons as that I was the first that offered the propounded price for her, it stands with all reason, O Hazan, that thou leave her unto me."

"Nay, rather it is more fitting, and will be better taken at my hands," replied Hazan, "to procure her and send her to the Grand Signior, since that I do it without being moved thereunto out of mine own private interest or expectancy of profit. And whereas you allege the commodiousness and conveniency of carrying her along with you, I will set forth a galley of mine own well armed, putting thereinto men of mine own, some servants, some slaves, which shall serve for her convoy and go along with her."

At these words Ali's blood began to rise, and rising upon his feet, he laid his hand on his cimetar, saying, "Hazan, my intentions being the same for the presenting and carrying of this Christian to the Grand Signior, and I having been the first chapman that drave the

bargain, it is grounded upon all reason and justice that thou leave her unto me; and if thou shouldst but think to carry her from me, this cimetar which I lay my hand on shall defend my right and chastise thy presumption."

The Cadi, who was attentive to all that passed between them, and burned no less in love's flames than the other two, fearing lest he might go without the Christian, bethought himself how he might quench this great fire which was kindled between them, and withal to get the captive into his own custody without giving any the least suspicion of his damnable intention; and therefore, rising up, he interposed himself between them, and said, "Hazan and Ali, let me entreat you both to be quiet and lay aside these your differences, and I doubt not but I shall be able to compose them in such sort that both of you may effect your intentions, and the Grand Signior be, as you desire, well served by you."

To these words of the Cadi they presently showed themselves obedient, and had he commanded them a greater matter they would have done it (so great is the respect which those of that sect bare to his grey hairs).

The Cadi then prosecuting what he had begun in this manner: "Thou, Ali, sayest that thou wouldst have this Christian for the Grand Signior; and Hazan he says the like. Thou allegest that thou wast the first in offering the demanded price for her, and therefore she ought to be thine. Hazan

contradicts thee in this; and though he doth not put his argument so home to the pinching-point, yet I find it is the same as thine is—that is, the same intention, which without all doubt was hatched as soon as thine was, in his desire and willingness to buy the slave for the same effect, only thou gotst the start of him in having first declared thyself; yet ought not this to be a cause that he should absolutely and wholly be defrauded and frustrated of his good desire, and therefore, in my opinion, it shall not be amiss to accord this business between you in this form and manner following: that both of you shall have equal interest in this slave, and since that the use of her is to be at the will and pleasure of the Grand Signior, for whom she is bought, it belongeth unto him to dispose of her. In the meanwhile, you, Hazan, shall pay two thousand crowns, and Ali shall lay down the other two thousand, and the captive shall remain in my power, to the end that in both your names I may send her to Constantinople, that neither of you might remain unrewarded; and can certify, as being an eye-witness, your forwardness to gratify the Grand Signior, and therefore offer myself to send her thither at my cost and charge with that authority and decency which is due to him to whom she is sent, writing to the Grand Signior, acquainting him with all that which passed here and your readiness to do him this service."

These two enamoured Turks neither knew, nor could, nor would contradict him, each of them

forming and imagining in his mind a hope, though doubtful, of promising to themselves the attaining to the end of their inflamed desires. Hazan, who was to continue Viceroy of Cyprus, thought upon giving great gifts to the Cadi, that being thereby overcome and obliged, he should deliver up unto him the captive; and Ali he imagined to do some such act as should assure the obtaining of what he desired; and each of them holding his own design the best and the surest, they easily condescended to what the Cadi had propounded, and with a joint consent both of them delivered her up presently unto him, and made each of them present payment to the Jew one thousand crowns apiece. But the Jew said he would not part with her upon those terms, if they meant to have into the bargain her wearing apparel and her jewels, which he valued at one thousand crowns more. And in very deed they could be little less worth, because in her hairs, which partly hung dishevelled on her shoulders and partly knit up in curious knots on her forehead, there appeared some ropes of pearls which very gracefully were interwoven with them. The bracelets about her arms and above her ankles, in the small of the leg, were likewise full of great pearls; her raiment throughout was very rich, and thereon a mantle, after the Moorish manner, of green satin, deeply fringed and embroidered with gold.

In a word, it seemed to all that were there present that the Jew had undervalued the attiring of her;

and the Cadi, that he might not show himself less liberal than the two Bashaws, told him he would pay him those thousand crowns, because he would have her to be presented in the same dress which she was now in to the Grand Signior. The two competitors did approve very well of it, each of them believing that all should fall out as they would have it.

I want now words significant enough to tell you what Ricardo thought in seeing his soul set out thus to open sale, and those thoughts which then came into his head, and those fears which suddenly surprised him, whenas he saw that his finding of his beloved pledge was to lose her the more. He knew not for a while whether he were sleeping or waking, not believing his own eyes in giving credit to that which they had seen; for it seemed unto him a thing impossible that they should see so unexpectedly before them those eyes of hers which he had not long since given to be shut up in eternal darkness.

When he saw that this was no phantasma or dream, but a real truth, he came to his friendly Mahamut, and whispering him in the ear, said softly unto him, "Friend, dost not thou know her?"

"Not I," said Mahamut.

"Then would I have thee know," replied Ricardo, "that it is Leonisa."

"How," answered Mahamut, "what is that, Ricardo, thou sayest?"

"That," said Ricardo, "which thou hast already heard."

"Hold thy peace, then, and do not discover her," replied Mahamut; "for Fortune goes now so ordering the business that thou shalt find her good and prosperous, since that she is in my master's power."

"Dost thou think it fit," said Ricardo, "that I go and put myself in some such place where I may be seen by her?"

"No, by no means," replied Mahamut, "lest she should put you, or you her, into some sudden passion; and have a great care that you do not give any the least sign or token that you know her, or that ever you had seen her, for if you should do so it might redound much to the prejudice of my design, if not utterly overthrow it."

"I will follow your advice," answered Ricardo; and so went his way, leaving the place, lest his eyes might encounter with those of Leonisa; who held hers all the while that this passed nailed to the ground, trilling some tears down from them.

She being thus, as you have heard, rendered up unto the Cadi, he came unto her, and laying hands on her, delivered her unto Mahamut, commanding him to carry her to the city, with charge to deliver her to his lady Halima, and to tell her withal that she should use and entreat her well, as being the slave of the Grand Signior. Mahamut did so, and left Ricardo all alone, who with his eyes went following this his star, till it was wholly taken out of his sight and covered as it were with a cloud from him by the walls of Nicosia. Having lost her, he goes

to look out the Jew, finds him, and coming civilly unto him, asked him where he had bought this captive Christian, and how and in what manner she came into his hand. The Jew made him answer that he lighted on her in the island of Pantanalea, and that he bought her of certain Turks whose galley had suffered wrack, being split there against the rocks; and being willing to have gone on in the prosecution of what he had begun, it received interruption and was wholly broken off by one that came from the Bashaws, telling the Jew that he must come away presently unto them, who had purposely sent for him that they might demand that of him which Ricardo was so desirous to know; and thereupon he abruptly took his leave.

In the way which was between the tents and the town Mahamut took occasion to ask Leonisa (speaking unto her in Italian) whence she was and of what place; who made him answer that she was of the city of Trapana.

Then Mahamut demanded again of her whether she did know in that city a rich and noble gentleman called Ricardo.

At her hearing him named Leonisa fetched a deep sigh, saying, "Too, too well, to my hurt."

"How to your hurt?" replied Mahamut.

"Because he knew me," said Leonisa, "to his own and my unhappiness."

"But I pray tell me," quoth Mahamut, "did you know likewise in the said city another gentleman, of a gentle disposition, the son of very rich parents, and

himself in his own person very valiant, very liberal, and very discreet, called Cornelio?"

"I likewise know him," said Leonisa, "and, I may say, much more to my hurt than Ricardo. But I pray, sir, who are you, who know these two and ask me of them?"

"I am," said Mahamut, "of Palermo, and by various accidents in this disguise and different habit from that which I was wont to wear. I know them passing well, for it is not many days since that they were both in my power; for certain Moors of Tripoli in Barbary had taken Cornelio captive and sold him to a Turk, who brought him to this island, whither he came with merchandise (for he is a merchant of Rhodes), who had trusted Cornelio with all his goods."

"And he will keep them well," said Leonisa, "because he knows so well to keep his own. But tell me, sir, how or with whom Ricardo came to this island?"

"Marry, he came," answered Mahamut, "with a pirate who took him prisoner in a garden near the seashore of Trapana, and [said] that together with him he had captivated a damosel, but I could never get him to tell me her name. He abode here some few days with his master, who was to go to visit Mahomet's Sepulchre, which is in the city of Almedina; but just at the time of his departure Ricardo fell so extreme sick that his master left him with me (for that I was his countryman), to the end that I might use all the best means for his recovery, and take care

and charge of him till his return; and in case that he did not return hither, that I should send him unto him to Constantinople, whereof he would advertise me when he came thither. But Heaven had otherwise ordered it, since that unfortunate Ricardo, without having any accident or symptom of a dangerous sickness, within a few days ended those of his life, making often mention of one Leonisa, whom, as himself told me, he loved more than his own life, and was as dear unto him, if not dearer, than his own soul; which Leonisa, as he at large related unto me, suffered shipwreck at the island of Pantanalea, the galley wherein she was being split upon the rocks, and herself drowned; whose death he continually lamented, and with much weeping bewailed, till that his mourning had brought him to breathe his last, for I perceived no sickness at all in him in his body, but great shows of grief and sorrow in his soul."

"Tell me, sir," replied Leonisa, "this other young man whom you speak of, in those his discourses which he had with you, which (for that you were of his own country) could not but be very many, did he not at any time speak of Leonisa? And did he tell you how she and Ricardo were made captives, and the whole manner of it?"

"Speak of her?" said Mahamut. "Yes, a thousand and a thousand times, and asked me many a time and oft whether any Christian of this name had of late been brought to this island, and with such and such marks and tokens, and how glad he would be to hear

any tidings of her, that he might ransom her. And withal I must tell you that he had told his master, and in telling made him believe, that she was not so rich as he took her to be, and for that he had enjoyed her, he might now make the less reckoning of her, and that if three or four hundred crowns would purchase her freedom he would willingly give so much for her, because heretofore he had borne some goodwill and affection towards her."

"Very little," said Leonisa, "must that his affection be which would not go beyond four hundred crowns. But Ricardo is more liberal, more valiant, more generous and ingenious than to make so poor an offer for that which he prized at so high a value. God pardon the party that was the cause of his death! for it was I that am that unhappy woman, whom he bewailed for dead; and God knows if I should not be glad with all my heart that he were alive, that I might requite his kindness, and that he might see how sensible I should be of his misfortune, who hath sorrowed so much for mine. I, sir, as I have already told you, am she who is as little beloved of Cornelio as I was greatly bewailed of Ricardo; she who by very many and various chances am come to this miserable estate wherein I now find myself; and though it be so dangerous, as you see, yet have I always, by Heaven's gracious assistance, kept mine honour entire and untouched, wherewith in this my misery I live contented. But now, woe is me! neither do I know where I am nor who is my

master, nor whither my contrarious fates will hurry me; wherefore I beseech you, sir, by that blood which you have in you of a Christian, that you will give me your best counsel and advice in these my troubles, which for that they have been many, though they have made me look about and be somewhat the more wary and circumspect, yet notwithstanding such and so many every moment came upon me that I knew not well how to prevent and withstand them."

Whereunto Mahamut answered, that he would do all whatsoever he was able to do in serving, advising, and assisting her with his best wit and strength; and then did he advertise her of the difference between the two Bashaws for her sake, and how that she now remained in the power of the Cadi his master, for the conveying and presenting her to the Great Turk Selim, at Constantinople; but rather than this should take effect, he hoped in the true God, in whom he believed, though a bad Christian, that He would dispose otherwise of her; advising her withal, that by bearing herself fairly she should work and insinuate herself into Halima's favour and good opinion, wife to the Cadi his master, in whose power she was to remain till they should send her to Constantinople, acquainting her withal with Halima's conditions and qualities, and besides these told her many other things which might make much for her good, holding talk and discourse with her all the way till he had brought her to and left her in the Cadi's house

and in the power of Halima, to whom he delivered his master's message.

The Moor, for that she saw she was so well clad and so beautiful, gave her a very kind and friendly welcome. Mahamut having rendered up his charge into Halima's hands, returned back to the tents to recount unto Ricardo what had passed betwixt himself and Leonisa, and meeting with him, told him all, point by point, from the beginning to the ending. "But when I came to tell him how sorrowful Leonisa was when I signified unto her that he was dead, the water stood in his eyes. I told him how I had feigned that counterfeit story of Cornelio's being a captive, to see how she would take it; I acquainted him with her coldness to Cornelio, and the bad conceit she had of him for his undervaluing her." All which was as a sovereign cordial to Ricardo's afflicted heart; who said unto Mahamut, "There comes now into my mind, friend Mahamut, a tale which my father told me, who you know how curious he was, and have heard, I am sure, what great honour the Emperor Charles the Fifth did him, whom he still served in honourable places in his wars. I tell you that he told me that when the Emperor was at the siege of Tuniz, and took it, together with the fort Goleta, being one day in the field in his tent, they presented unto him a Moor, as a singular rarity for her beauty, and that at that very time wherein they presented her unto him entered in certain beams of the sun at the one side of the tent

and rested on the hairs of the Moor, which seemed to stand in competition with those of the sun, being between red and yellow, resembling the colour of golden wires—a rare and strange thing amongst the Moors, with whom your black hairs are in greatest esteem and request. He told me likewise that on that occasion there were in the tent, amongst many other, two Spanish gentlemen, both very discreet, and both poets, the one of Andaluzia, the other of Catalunia. The former having taken a view of her, vented certain verses which they call coplas, ending in rhyme; but being at a stand when he had uttered five of his verses, the other gentleman (seeing him stick, and that he could go no further to make an end of what he had begun for want of words, which on the sudden did not offer themselves to his liking), who stood close by him and had heard these his verses, went presently on where he left, adding instantly five other to the former; and this presented itself unto my memory when I saw that most beautiful Leonisa enter the Bashaws' tent, not only outshining the beams of the sun, should they have lighted on her, but even heaven itself with all its stars."

"Hold," said Mahamut; "no more, lest, friend Ricardo, thy tongue run riot; for at every word thou utterest I am afraid thou wilt pass so far beyond the bounds of not only reason but religion in the praise and commendation of thy fair Leonisa, that leaving to seem a Christian, thou wilt be taken for a Gentile. Let me hear those verses or coplas, or what else you please

to call them, that we may afterwards talk of other things that may be more pleasing and perhaps more profitable."

"In good time," said Ricardo; "but let me once again advertise thee that the Andaluz vented the first five verses, and the Catalan the other five, both extempore, and these they be:—

And. 'Whilst I behold thy glittering golden hairs,
Dishevelled thus, waving about thy ears,
And see those locks thus loosèd and undone,
For their more pomp to sport them in the sun,
Love takes those threads and weaves them with that art,'

Cat. 'He knits a thousand knots about my heart,
And with such skill and cunning he them sets,
My soul lies taken in those lovely nets,
Making me cry, fair prison that dost hold
My heart in fetters wrought of burnished gold.'"

"I like them well," said Mahamut, "but much better, my Ricardo, that you are in this good humour of repeating verses, because the saying or making of them requireth the minds of men that are disapassionated."

"Men likewise use," replied Ricardo, "to wail over hearses as to sing verses; both are verse. But laying this aside, tell me what thou mindest to do in this our business; for though I understood not what the Bashaws treated in the tent till thou hadst carried away Leonisa, a renegado of my master, a Venetian, told me all, who was then present, and understood the Turkish language very well; and therefore above all

things it is most needful and requisite to set our wits awork and seek out some plot to prevent Leonisa's coming to the hands of the Grand Signior."

"That which is fittest first of all to be done," answered Mahamut, "is that thou come to be in the power of my master. This being effected, we will afterwards consult on that which shall convene best for us."

Whilst they were thus talking came the guardian of the Christian captives belonging to Hazan and carried Ricardo away with him. The Cadi returned with Hazan to the city, who in a few days despatched Ali's residency, and gave it him rolled up and sealed, that he might carry it along with him to Constantinople. He taking his leave, prepared forthwith to set forward on his journey, being very instant with the Cadi that he would hasten the sending of the captive, and withal write his letters to the Grand Signior in his favour, for the better furthering of his pretensions. The Cadi promised him he would, but with treacherous bowels, which were almost turned into ashes, so were they set on fire by the inflamed love which he bare to the captive.

Ali being gone full of false hopes, and Hazan abiding behind not void of them, Mahamut so brought the business about that Ricardo came into the power of his master. Hours and days ran on, the time passed away, and the longing desire to see Leonisa did so press and wring Ricardo that he could not take one poor short minute of rest. Ricardo changed his own name into that of Mario, because his might not come

to Leonisa's ears before that his eyes had seen her; and for to see her was very hard and difficult, for that the Moors are extremely jealous, and keep covered from all men the faces of their women; howbeit they do not much mislike the showing of them to Christians, which happily may be because being captives they do not reckon them for men, but slight them as contemptible creatures.

Yet one day it so happened that the lady Halima saw her slave Mario, and in seeing him took such a good liking of him that he remained deeply engraven in her heart and strongly fixed in her memory; and peradventure taking little contentment in the cold and weak embracements of her aged husband, she the more easily gave way to this her evil desire, and with the like easiness she acquainted Leonisa therewith, whom she now dearly loved, and made exceeding much of, for her sweet behaviour and discreet carriage, and likewise showed her great respect for that she was to be sent for a rarity to the Grand Signior. She acquainted her how that the Cadi had brought and received into his house a Christian captive of so gentle an aspect and comely presence that in her eye he was the handsomest man that ever she saw in her life, and that they said he was a chilibi, that is to say a gentleman, and countryman to Mahamut their renegado, and that she knew not how to give him clearly to understand the goodwill and affection which she bare unto him, fearing lest that the Christian should slight and neglect her for declaring

and manifesting her love unto him at the first sight, before she had further and better knowledge of him.

Leonisa asked her what was the captive's name. Halima told her Mario; to whom Leonisa replied, "If he be a gentleman, and of that place they say he is, certainly I should know him; but of this name Mario I do not remember that there is any such in Trapana. But if it shall stand with your ladyship's pleasure that I may but see him and talk a while with him, I shall be able to inform you both who he is and what may be hoped from him."

"It shall be so," said Halima; "and on Friday next, whenas the Cadi shall be at the Mezquita, performing those rites and ceremonies which are then and there required in their devotions and adorations, I will take occasion to call him in hither, where leaving you two together, you may talk alone by yourselves; and if you think fit, you may give him some inkling of my desires and well-wishings towards him, and that you will do me this friendly office in the best manner your wit and discretion can devise, of both which I have had already sufficient trial, and therefore need not to express myself or press you any farther in this particular."

This Halima said to Leonisa, and within less than two hours after, the Cadi called Mahamut and Mario unto him, and with no less efficacy than Halima had discovered her heart to Leonisa did this enamoured old-young man discover his to his two slaves, craving their counsel and advice what course he should take

for to keep the Christian to himself and enjoy her, and yet comply with the Grand Signior, whose she was; telling them withal that he would rather die a thousand deaths than deliver her up once to the Great Turk.

With such affection did this Moor express his passions that they left a deep impression and belief in the hearts of his two slaves; whose thoughts were fully bent to run a contrary course to that which he imagined. He thought one thing, and they another; in the end, it was concluded between them that Mario, as being a man of her own nation and country, howbeit he had told him that he knew her not, should take in hand the soliciting her and in declaring his fervent affection; and in case that by his fair means he could not prevail and procure her goodwill, he should then use force, she being now in his power; and this being done, to give out that she was dead, and so he should excuse his sending of her to Constantinople.

The Cadi rested wonderful well contented with this device of his slaves, and out of the great joy which he had imagined to himself he instantly gave Mahamut his liberty, bequeathing besides unto him after his death the one half of his goods. He likewise promised Mario, if he procured that which he so earnestly desired, not only his liberty, but good store of crowns, wherewith he should return home to his own country rich, honoured, and contented.

If he were liberal in promising, his captives were

prodigal, offering to hale down the moon from heaven to do him service, how much more easily to draw Leonisa to the bent of his bow, and to condescend to his desire, so as Mario by his leave might have the conveniency offered him of speaking with her.

"I will give him free leave of access unto her," answered the Cadi, "even as often as he will himself, if that will advance the business; for I will so order it that Halima shall go hence to the house of her parents, who are Greek Christians, where she shall stay some few days, or longer time if need be; and she being abroad, I will command my porter that he suffer Mario to enter into the house, and to have free ingress and egress as oft as he pleaseth; and I will tell Leonisa that she may, if it please her, talk and converse with her countryman."

Thus did the wind begin to chop about of Ricardo's misfortunes, blowing with a gentle gale in his favour, his master not witting which way he meant to shape his course. This appointment being made and concluded on between these three, the first that laid this plot was Halima, showing herself a right woman, whose nature is facile, and whose wit quick and sudden for the effecting of that which she hath a mind unto, especially if her heart be eagerly set upon it. That very selfsame day the Cadi came to Halima and told her that she might when she would go out of the town to visit her father and mother, and make merry with them and the rest of her good friends, and to stay there as long as she listed, or till he sent for her;

but because her heart was overjoyed with those good hopes which Leonisa had given her, she not only would not go to her parents' house, nor yet to that feigned paradise of Mahomet, and therefore told him that at this time she had no great mind to go thither; when she had, she would acquaint him therewith; but whensoever she went, she would carry the captive Christian along with her. "Oh, by no means," replied the Cadi, "for it is not fit that this pledge of the Grand Signior should be seen of any; besides, it would do her more hurt than good to converse with Christians, since that you know that when she comes into the power of the Grand Signior she must be shut up in the seraglio, and turn Turk whether she will or no."

"But if she go along with me," replied Halima, "it mattereth not much that she be in my parents' house, nor that she converse with them, with whom myself converse much more and yet I cease not for all that to be a good Turk. Besides, the longest time that I mean to spend with them in their house shall be at the farthest but four or five days, for the great love which I bear unto you will not give me leave to be any longer absent and not see you."

The Cadi made no reply, that he might not give her occasion to breed some suspicion or other in her of his intention.

Whilst this business was a-brewing, Friday came, and he went to the Mezquita, from whence he could not come forth in almost four hours; and Halima had scarce seen him put his foot over the threshold of

his house but she commanded Mario to be called for to come unto her; but a Christian of Corsica would not suffer him to enter, who was then porter and waited at the gate of the outward court, if Halima herself had not called out aloud unto him that he should let him come in. And so he entered, but much troubled, and trembling, as if he had been to fight with a whole army of enemies.

Leonisa was in the same dress and attire as when she entered the Bashaws' tent, sitting at the foot of a curious staircase of polished marble, which led the way up to a large and spacious gallery rounding the whole house; her head hung downward towards her bosom, resting itself on the palm of her right hand, and leaning her elbow on her knee; her eyes were turned another way quite contrary to the door by which Mario entered, so that though he went towards the place where she sate yet did she not see him.

No sooner was Ricardo let in but he walked through the whole house with his eyes, yet could he not perceive anything save a dumb and still silence, till that he cast his eye aside where Leonisa sate; instantly whereupon so many thoughts took hold on enamoured Ricardo as did work in him both amazement and gladness, conceiting himself to be a thousand paces and more distanced from his happiness and contentment; he considered likewise with himself that he was a captive, and his glory in another's power. Revolving these things with himself, he made towards her by a little and a little, and with a fearful love, a joyful

sadness, and timorous courage (for such passions accompany true lovers), he came by degrees to the centre where his heart's joy was, when by chance Leonisa turned her head aside, and fixed her eyes on those of Mario, who looked very stedfastly on her.

But when both their looks had thus encountered each other, by different effects [they] gave evident signs of that which their several souls felt within. Ricardo stood stock still, and could not stir one foot further; and Leonisa, who upon Mahamut's relation gave Ricardo for dead, and to see him now and that so unexpectedly alive, full of fear and amazement, without unfixing her eyes or turning her back, she stepped up backward four or five stairs, she blessed herself as if she had seen some phantasma or a thing of another world.

Ricardo returned from out his astonishment, and knew by that which Leonisa did the true cause of her fear, and therefore said unto her, "It grieves me to the very soul, O of all fair the fairest, Leonisa! that the news did not fall out true which Mahamut gave thee of my death, for by it I might have excused those fears which now I have in thinking with myself whether that rigour which heretofore thou hast used towards me continue still in the same force and being. Quiet yourself, dearest in my love, and come down again; and if you dare do that which hitherto you never did, which is to draw near unto me, come and touch me, and thou shalt see that I am no phantastical body, no wandering ghost. I am Ricardo,

Leonisa—that unfortunate Ricardo whom thou hast made so."

Whilst he was speaking this, Leonisa puts her finger upon her mouth, whereby Ricardo understood that it was a sign that he should be silent or speak more softly; and taking a little better heart unto him, he drew a little nearer unto her, in such a distance that he might hear these words come from her: "Speak lower, Mario (for so methinketh thou now callest thyself), and treat not of any other thing now save what I shall treat with thee, and consider withal that it may so happen that if we be overheard we shall never see one another any more. I verily believe that Halima our mistress listeneth to hear, if not heareth us; who, to deal plainly and briefly with thee, hath told me that she adores thee, and hath entreated me to be the intercessoress of this her desire. If thou wilt answer her wishes, it will be better for thy body than thy soul; but if thou wilt not, yet must thou feign that thou dost embrace her love, as well because I entreat thee so to do as also for that the declared desires of a woman ought not uncivilly to be despised and utterly rejected."

Hereunto Ricardo answered, "I did never think nor ever could imagine, fairest Leonisa, that there was that thing whatsoever which you should entreat me to do that should bring with it an impossibility of complying therewith, but that which you now require of me hath disdeceived me. Is peradventure man's will so light that it may be moved

to and fro, and carried hither and thither whither the pleasure of others shall guide and direct it? or doth it stand with the honour and faith of a gentleman, or with the repute of an honest man, to feign and dissemble in things of such weight and high a nature as this is? If it seem good unto you that any of these things in this kind ought to be or may be done, do that which shall be most pleasing in your own eyes, because you are the sole mistress of my will. But I now know that you likewise deceive me in this, since that you never rightly knew my will, and therefore know not how to dispose thereof; but because you may not say that in the first thing you commanded me you should not be obeyed, I will lose somewhat of myself, and of being what I ought to be; I will satisfy your desire, and that of Halima, as you say, feignedly, so that I may thereby gain the happiness to see you; and therefore do you feign my answers to your own good liking, for from henceforth my feigned will doth firm and confirm them. Now, in requital of this office which I do for you, which is in my opinion the greatest that ever I can or shall be able to do, though I should give my soul anew unto you, which I have so often given you, I beseech you that you will briefly tell me how you escaped from the hands of the pirates, and how you came to those of the Jew who so lately sold you."

"The story of my misfortunes," answered Leonisa, "require more leisure than time will now permit to

relate, yet notwithstanding I will not leave you wholly unsatisfied. Know, then, that the same very evening we parted, Ysuph's galley was with a stiff and strong wind driven to the same isle of Pantanalea where we likewise saw your vessel; but ours, we being not able to hinder it, ran remedilessly upon the rocks. My master then having his destruction before his eyes, and that there was little or no hope of safety left, with all possible haste emptied two hogsheads which were full of water, then stopped up the bungholes very close, and having bound the one to the other with good strong cords, he seated me between them; that done, he presently stripped himself, and taking another hogshead, spreading his arms over it, and binding a rope about his middle, causing the same to be fastened to the casks whereon I sate bound, with great courage he rushed into the sea, towing me after him. I had not the heart to rush in after him, which one of the Turks seeing, pushed me forward with all his force, and sent me packing after Ysuph, where I lay without any sense, nor came again to myself till I found myself on land in the arms of two Turks, who bowing my head and body towards the ground, held me so a pretty space, all that while great store of salt water which I had swallowed down coming forth at my mouth. At last I opened mine eyes, but as one amazed, and looking about, who should I see but Ysuph lying by me, with his brains beaten out against the rocks when he had almost recovered the shore, where he ended

his life. This I afterwards understood by the Turks; and they likewise told me that, taking hold of the cord, they drew me on land, without receiving any further harm than what I mentioned before unto you; of all the whole company only eight persons escaped drowning. Eight days we abode in the island, the Turks using me with as much respect as if I had been their sister, if not more. We kept ourselves close in a cave, the Turks fearing that if they should be espied, the Christians which had the command of the fort which is in the island would sally forth upon them and take them captive. They sustained themselves with wet biscuit which the sea had cast upon the shore from out the broken bins of the galley, which they went forth to gather up by night, that they might not be discovered. Fortune had so ordered it for my great ill that the fort was without a captain, who died but a few days before; and in all the fort there were not above twenty soldiers. This we came to know by a youth which was captivated by the Turks, who came down from thence to gather cockles by the seaside. At the eight days' end there arrived on that coast a vessel of the Moors, which they call Carmamucales; the Turks saw its coming in, and that they lay at anchor a little off the land, and so made towards them, making such signs to the vessel, which was not far off, that they who were in her knew they were Turks that called unto them. Thereupon they sent out their cock-boat, and they recounted unto them their distress, and they received them into their bark, wherein came an

exceeding rich Jew, a merchant; and all the lading of the vessel, or the most part of it, was his, being fraughted with carpets and hides, and other commodities which they bring from Barbary to the Levant. In the said vessel the Turks went for Tripoli, and in that voyage they sold me to the Jew for two thousand ducats—an excessive price, if his love towards me had not made him so liberal, which the Jew afterwards discovered unto me. Leaving the Turks after all this in Tripoli, the vessel tacked about to perform her voyage, and the Jew in most impudent manner fell to soliciting of me; but I showed him such a countenance as his filthy desires deserved. Seeing himself then in despair of obtaining his lustful ends, he resolved to rid himself of me upon the first occasion that should offer itself unto him. And it coming to his knowledge that the two Bashaws, Ali and Hazan, were in this island, where he might sell and vent his merchandise as well as in Xio, whither he was bound, he came hither with intention to sell me to one of the two Bashaws, and for this cause put me into this dress and wear wherein you now see me, for to affectionate them the more unto me who should buy me. I am given to understand that this Cadi hath bought me with purpose to carry me for a present to the Great Turk, whereof I am not a little afraid. Here I came to know thy feigned death; and I must now tell thee, if thou wilt believe me, and believe me thou mayst, that it grieved me to the very soul, and that I did more envy than pity thee, yet not out of any ill will that I

bare unto thee, though I did not answer thy love according to thy expectation, for I shall never be ingrateful and disrespective where I have found so much love and respect, but because thou hadst then made an end of thy life's tragedy."

"Dear Leonisa," answered Ricardo, "you say not amiss herein, if death had not hindered the happiness of my coming again to see you, esteeming more this instant of glory which I enjoy in seeing you than any other happiness, saving that which is eternal, which either in life or in death might assure unto me my desire. The Cadi, now my master, into whose power I am come by no less various accidents than yours, bears the like fervent affection unto you as Halima doth to me; he hath made choice of me to be the interpreter of his thoughts. I entertained the motion, not for to do him any pleasure thereby, but that I might gain the commodity and conveniency of speaking with you, to the end that you may see, Leonisa, to what hard terms our misfortunes have brought us—you to be the means of working an impossibility (for you know my mind touching the motion you made unto me), and me to be likewise set awork about such a business as I least dreamt of, and for which I would give, rather than obtain it, my life, which now I esteem according to its high worth and value since that it hath had the happiness to see you."

"I know not what to say unto thee, Ricardo," replied Leonisa, "nor how we shall be able to get out of this intricate labyrinth whereinto, as thou sayest, our hard

fortune hath brought us; only I know to say thus much, that we must be driven in this business to use that which is contrary to our condition and hateful to honest minds, to wit, dissembling and deceit; and therefore say unto thee, that I will accquaint Halima with some such words delivered by thee that shall rather entertain her with hopes than drive her to despair. Thou likewise shalt say of me to the Cadi that which thou shalt think most convenient for the securing of mine honour and the deceiving of him; and since that I put mine honour into thy hands, thou mayst assure thyself that it is yet as true and entire as ever, though the many ways which I have gone and the many assaults which I have endured might call it into question, though you nor any else, without great injustice, can make the least doubt of it. For our speaking and conversing each with other will be, by their means, most facile and easy; always presupposed that you never once open your mouth nor treat aught with me which shall any way appertain to your declared pretension, for in what hour you shall do that, in the same you shall take your leave of seeing me any more. For I would not have thee think that my value is of so little worth, and of so few quilates, that captivity shall work that with me which liberty could not do. I will be, by Heaven's favour, like gold, which the longer it is in the chrysol comes forth thence the purer and the finer. Rest satisfied and content thyself with that which I have already said unto thee, lest the very sight of thee should, as it hath

done heretofore, cause a distance in me, if not a loathing; for I would have thee to know, Ricardo, that I always held thee to be too rough and arrogant, and to presume somewhat more of thyself than was fitting. I confess likewise that I may be deceived; and it may be that, making this trial of thee, experience will set the truth before mine eyes, and tell me I was deceived, and being put out of this error I may be more kind but never less honest. Go, get you gone, for I fear me Halima may have overheard us, who hath some understanding of our Christian language—at least of that mingled speech which is used whereby we all understand one another."

"You say very well, mistress of my heart," answered Ricardo, "and I infinitely thank you, and take in exceeding good part this disdeceiving which you have given me, and make as high esteem thereof as of the favour you do me in suffering me to see you. And, as you say, experience peradventure will make known unto you how plain and downright my condition is, and how meek and humble my disposition, especially for to adore you; and had you not put a bound and limit to my carriage and treating with you, yet should it have been so fair and so honest towards you as you cannot wish or desire to have it better. Touching that which concerneth the entertaining of the Cadi, take you no care of that, leave it to me; do you the like with Halima. And, by the way, I would have you, lady, to know that since I have seen you there is bred in me such a strong hope and confidence as

assureth me that it shall not be long before we procure our desired liberty, and so God have you in His keeping. At another time and better leisure I shall relate unto you the revolutions, the turnings and windings by which Fortune hath brought me to this estate, after that she had put us asunder and severed me from your sight."

With this they took their leaves each of other, Leonisa remaining well contented and satisfied with Ricardo's plain proceeding, and he the most joyful man in the world that he had heard one word from Leonisa's mouth without tartness.

Halima had shut up herself in her oratory, praying to her prophet Mahomet that Leonisa might bring her a good despatch of that business which she had recommended unto her. The Cadi he was in the Mezquita, recompensing with his desires those of his wife, they keeping him very solicitous, as wholly depending on the answer which he hoped to hear from his slave to whose charge he had committed his talking with Leonisa; and that he might better come to have some speech with her, Mahamut should afford him opportunity though that Halima were in the house.

Leonisa increased in Halima her lewd lust and filthy desire by giving her very good hopes that Mario would condescend to her will and do whatsoever she would command him, but telling her withal that she must have patience till two moons were first passed over, before which time he could not

comply with that which he much more desired than herself; and this term he entreated of her that he might make his prayers and supplications unto God for the freeing of him from his captivity and estoring him again to his former liberty. Halima contented herself with the excuse and relation of her beloved Ricardo, whom she would free from his slavery before the deputed time, so as he would accomplish her desire; and therefore entreated Leonisa that she would treat with him, and see if she could work him to dispense with the said time and to cut off all delays, and she would furnish him with as much money as the Cadi should require of him for his ransom.

Now, before that Ricardo returned an answer to his master, he consulted with Mahamut what answer he should make him; and they agreed between them to tell him that the case was desperate, no hope of winning her, and that as soon as possibly he could he should carry her away to Constantinople, and that in the way thitherward, either by fair means or by force, obtain his desire; and as touching the inconvenience which might offer itself for his complying with the Grand Signior, he should do well to buy him another slave, and in the voyage to feign and cause it to be given out that Leonisa was fallen sick, and making our advantage of a dark night, we may cast the bought Christian overboard into the sea, saying that it was Leonisa the captive of the Grand Signior that was dead; and that may be done, and should be

done, in such manner that the truth thereof should never be discovered, and so remain blameless with the Grand Signior and fulfil his own will, and that for the continuation of his pleasure they would afterwards devise some convenient course that should make all safe and sure.

This poor man, this old Cadi, his love to Leonisa made him so blind that had they told him a thousand other greater unlikelihoods, so as they were directed to the fulfilling of his hopes, he would have believed them all; how much more when it seemed unto him that all which they said was good and current, and in a very fair way promising prosperous success. And so indeed it might have proved if the intention of these his two counsellors had not been to make themselves masters of the vessel, and to make an end of him and his foolish thoughts together.

But another difficulty offered itself to the Cadi, which in his own opinion was greater than all the rest, it running still in his head that his wife Halima would not let him go to Constantinople unless he would carry her with him. But presently they did facilitate that, telling him that instead of the Christian which they were to buy, and must die and be turned overboard, instead of Leonisa, Halima would serve excellently for that purpose, and none better, of whom he desired to be freed more than from death. With the same facility as he entertained this in his thought, with the like did Mahamut and Ricardo yield thereunto.

And being firmly resolved thereon, that very day the Cadi breaks with Halima about the voyage which he thought to make to Constantinople, to carry the Christian to the Grand Signior, by whose liberality he hoped he should be made the great Cadi of Cairo, or of Constantinople. Halima told him that she liked very well of his determination, thinking that he would leave Ricardo at home; but when the Cadi had certified her that he would carry him along with him, and likewise Mahamut, she began to change her opinion, and to disadvise him from that which before she had advised him to do; in fine, she concluded that if he did not take her with him, she would in no hand give way to his going. The Cadi would not cross her, but if she would needs have it so, her will should be his; thinking then with himself that he would quickly shake off that yoke which lay so heavy on his neck.

All this while Hazan Bashaw was not careless in soliciting the Cadi to deliver up the slave unto him, offering him mountains of gold, having besides given him Ricardo before for nothing, whose ransom he prized at two thousand crowns. All these gifts and promises wrought no further good with the Cadi than to make him hasten the more his departure; and so, solicited by his desire and by the importunities of Hazan, together with those of Halima, who likewise built vain hopes in the air, within twenty days he had fitted and rigged up a brigantine of fifteen banks, manning it with voluntary soldiers, lusty young able

men, partly Moors, partly Greek Christians. Therein he embarked all his wealth, and Halima left not aught at home in her house of any moment, and entreated her husband that he would give her leave to carry with her her father and mother, that they might see Constantinople. Halima's intention was the same with that of Mahamut, meaning to deal with him and Ricardo that when they were on their voyage they should make themselves masters of the brigantine and go away with it; but she would not open her mind nor declare herself unto them till she saw herself embarked, and this, too, with a full purpose and resolution to go to the Christians' country, and to return to that religion which she had first been of, and to be married to Ricardo; being verily persuaded that, carrying such store of wealth along with her, and turning Christian, he would not refuse to take her to wife.

In this interim Ricardo had speech with Leonisa, and declared unto her his whole intention; and she again acquainted him with Halima's purpose, who had imparted the same unto her. They enjoined each other secrecy, and recommending themselves to God, they stood expecting the day of their departure; which being come, Hazan went forth, accompanying them with all his soldiers to the seaside, and did not leave them till they had hoised sail, neither did he take off his eye from the brigantine till he had quite lost the sight of it; and it seemed that the air and breath of those sighs which the enamoured Moor

vented forth did fill and drive forward with greater force the sails which wafted away his soul. But he, as one who a long time lived in such torment, oppressed by love that he could take no rest, thinking on that which he was to do, that he might not die by the hands of his violent desires, omitted not to put that presently in execution which with long deliberation and a resolute determination he had forecasted; and therefore in a vessel of seventeen banks which he had made ready in another port, he clapped into her fifty soldiers, all his friends and acquaintance, whom he had obliged unto him by many gifts and promises, giving them in charge that they should put forth to sea, set upon and take the Cadi's brigantine and all the wealth that was in her, putting to the edge of the sword as many as went in her, save Leonisa the captive, for she was the only spoil that he looked after, prizing her above all the other riches and treasure which were in the vessel; he likewise gave order that they should sink her, so that not any one thing might remain that might give any the least sign or token of their perdition. The covetousness of the spoil added wings to their feet and courage to their hearts, howbeit they knew very well that they should find but little resistance in those of the brigantine, in regard that they were disarmed and without any the least suspicion that any such unexpected accident should befall them.

Two days had the brigantine now gone in her intended course, which to the Cadi seemed two ages; for

the very first day of all he would fain have put in execution his determination, but his slaves advised him that the business must first be so carried that Leonisa should fall sick, to give thereby some colour to her death, and that this would require some days of sickness. He did not like of that, but would have given it out that she died suddenly, and so quickly make an end of what they had projected by despatching his wife out of hand, that he might allay the heat of that fire which by little and little went consuming his bowels; but in conclusion he must condescend to that which the other two thought fit.

Now, in this meanwhile Halima had declared her intent to Mahamut and Ricardo, and they were ready to put it in execution as soon as they had doubled the points of Alexandria or passed by the castles of Natolia. But the Cadi was so hasty with them and so sharp-set that they promised to perform the task they undertook upon the first occasion that should offer itself unto them. And one day, at the end of six which they had sailed [on their] voyage, and that now it seemed to the Cadi that the feigning of Leonisa's sickness was sufficient, he did importune his slaves that they should conclude the next day with Halima, and throw her, wrapped up in a winding-sheet, into the sea, saying it was the captive of the Grand Signior.

The day afterwards began to break wherein, according to the intention of Mahamut and Ricardo, was to be the accomplishment of their desires or the end of their days; when lo, they might descry a vessel

which with sail and oar came chasing them. They were afraid that they were Christian pirates, from whom neither the one nor the other could expect any good; for being such, the Moors feared to be made captives, and the Christians that, though they should get their liberty, they should lose their goods and be stripped of all they had. But Mahamut and Ricardo contented themselves with Leonisa's and their own liberty; yet notwithstanding this imagined hope, they much feared the insolency of your rovers at sea, for they that follow such kind of exercises and make a common trade thereof, be they of what religion or nation soever, they usually are cruelly minded and of an insolent condition.

They prepared to defend themselves, without forsaking their oars, and doing all that might be done in such a case of necessity and so sudden. It was not long, a matter of two or three hours, little more or less, that they drew nearer and nearer, till they came within cannon-shot of them. Seeing this, they strook sail, loosed their oars, betook themselves to their arms, and expected their coming.

Howbeit, the Cadi bid them be of good cheer and fear nothing, for the vessel was Turkish, and would not do them any harm. He commanded that a white flag in token of peace should presently be set up, placing it on the yard-sail of the poop, because they might the better discern it, who being already blinded with covetousness and greediness of gain made up with great fury to board the ill-defended brigantine.

Whilst this was in acting, Mahamut by chance turned his head aside, and perceived that from the westward there was a galley coming up, and to his thinking of some twenty banks, whereof he certified the Cadi; and some Christians which wrought at the oar said that the vessel they had descried was of Christians; all which did but double their confusion and fear, holding them in suspense, not knowing what to do, fearing and hoping such success as God should be pleased to give them.

By this time I conceive that the Cadi would have given (being in that strait that now he was), to have found himself again in Nicosia, all the hopes of his pleasure, so great was the confusion and amazement wherein he was, though he were quickly put out of it by that first vessel, which without respect to the flag of peace, or that which was due to their religion, did set upon that of the Cadi with such force and fury that they wanted very little of sinking it. The Cadi presently knew those that had thus set upon them, for his eyes gave him assured notice that the soldiers were of Nicosia. He soon guessed the cause of their coming, and by whom set awork, and gave himself for a lost and dead man; and had it not been that the soldiers gave themselves more to the spoil than the slaughter, not a man of them had escaped alive.

But when they were most busy about their pillaging a Turk cried out aloud unto them, saying, "Arm, arm, fellow-soldiers! for a vessel of Christians is coming upon us." And he had good reason to say so, because

the vessel which the Cadi's brigantine descried bare Christian flags, and very fiercely did set upon that of Hazan; but before they came to grapple with her one from the prow demanded of them in the Turkish language what vessel that was, and whence? They made answer that it was Hazan's the Bashaw, Viceroy of Cyprus. "Why then," replied the Turk, "you being Musolimans, have set upon and robbed this vessel wherein we know goes the Cadi of Nicosia?" Whereunto they answered that they knew no other cause save that they were commanded to take her, and that they as being his soldiers, in obedience unto him, had done his command.

The captain of the second vessel who came in a Christian disguise resting satisfied with that which he desired to know, fell off from that of Hazan, and made towards that of the Cadi; and with the very first volley of shot he gave them he killed ten of those Turks that were in her, and presently after entered her with great courage and speed. But they had scarce set their feet on the hatches but the Cadi instantly knew that it was not a Christian that had thus set upon him, but Ali Bashaw, who was in love with Leonisa, who with the same intent as Hazan stood waiting his coming, and that he might not be known had clad his soldiers like Christians, to the end that by this device his theft might not be discovered.

The Cadi, who knew the intentions of these lovers and traitors, began in a loud voice to vent his malice, saying, "What is this thou doest, thou traitor Ali

Bashaw, that thou being a Musoliman, that is to say a Turk, settest upon me as a Christian? And you traitors, Hazan's soldiers, what a devil hath moved you to commit so great an outrage, for that to fulfil the lascivious and lustful appetite of him who sent you hither will thus go against your natural lord?"

Upon these words of his all of them silenced their arms, no more clattering was heard, and looking one upon another, they came at last to know each other, because they had all of them been soldiers of one and the same captain, and served under one and the same banner; and being now abashed at the Cadi's word, and ashamed of their own bad act, the points of their cimetars were blunted and the edges of them dulled, their courages were quelled and their minds mightily dismayed. Only Ali shut his eyes and ears to all that he saw or heard, and falling upon the Cadi, he gave him such a cut in the head that if the blow had not been borne off by a hundred yards of calico wrapped about it, doubtless he had cleft his head asunder, yet it strook him down between the banks of the vessel; and being fallen, the Cadi said, "O cruel renegado, enemy of our Prophet! and is it possible that there is none that will chastise thy cruelty and this thy great insolency? How, accursed as thou art! durst thou presume to lay hands and draw thy sword against thy Cadi, and a minister of Mahomet?"

These words added force to force, and more fuel to the former fire; the which being heard by Hazan's

soldiers, and moved with fear that Ali his soldiers would take their prey from them (which they held yet to be theirs), they determined to put all upon adventure; and one beginning first, and all the rest following after, they set upon the soldiers of Ali with such haste, rancour, and courage that in a little while they behaved themselves so manfully that though they were more by many than they, they reduced them to a very small number; but they which remained of them took heart unto them, leaving scarce four of Hazan's men alive, and those very sorely wounded.

Ricardo and Mahamut stood looking on, who ever and anon put their heads out of the scupper-holes of the poop cabin to see what would become of this great fray, which on both sides was so hotly pursued; and seeing that the Turks were in a manner all slain, and they that were alive sore wounded, and how easily they might make an end of all of them, he called to Mahamut, and two kinsmen of Halima whom she had wrought to embark themselves with her, that they might assist in going away with the vessel, and with their help and her father's, taking up the cimetars of the slain, they showed themselves upon the deck, crying out, "Liberty! liberty!" and being aided by the voluntaries who were Greek Christians, with a great deal of ease and without receiving any one wound, they cut the throats of them all; and boarding Ali's galley, which they found without defence, they took it, with all that was therein. Of those that died in the second encounter one of the first was Ali



BOARDING ALI S GALLEY.

Bashaw, whom a Turk in revenge of the Cadi ran through the body.

Being now masters of all the three vessels, they consulted what was now best to be done. In the end they yielded to Ricardo's advice, which was, that they should take out all things that were of any price or value, both in their own and Hazan's vessel, and stow them in Ali's galley, which was a vessel of far greater burthen and fitter to take in the lading, and make good their voyage; and the rather, for that the rowers were Christians, who resting well contented with their recovered liberty, and with many other good things which Ricardo liberally shared amongst them, offered to carry him to Trapana, and if need were, even to the end of the world.

This being thus ordered, Mahamut and Ricardo, full of joy for this their good success, went to the Moor Halima and told her that if she would return to Cyprus they would man her own vessel with good valiant voluntaries, and give her the one half of the goods which she had embarked. But she, who notwithstanding this so great a calamity had not yet lost that itching love and amorous affection which she bare to Ricardo, told him that she would go with him to the land of Christians, whereof her parents were wondrous glad.

The Cadi was by this time come to himself, and having dressed and bound up his wound as their haste and the place would permit, they likewise told him that he should make choice of one of these two, either

to go with them to the land of Christians, or to return in the same vessel he set forth to Nicosia. Whereunto he answered, that since his ill fortune had brought him to such bad terms, he would rather accept of the liberty which they gave him, and that he would go to Constantinople and make his complaint to the Grand Signior of the great and grievous wrong which from Hazan and Ali he had received. But when he knew that Halima would leave him and turn Christian, he was almost ready to run mad.

In conclusion, they manned his own vessel, and furnished him with all things necessary for his voyage, and gave him some chequines of those which once had been his own. And so, having taken his leave of all of them, being resolved to return to Nicosia, he besought before he had hoised sail that Leonisa would do him the favour to embrace him, for that grace and honour she therein should show him would of itself be sufficient to make him forget all his misfortune. All of them entreated Leonisa to confer that favour on one that loved her so well, since in so doing she should not go against the decorum and decency of her honesty. Leonisa yielded to their request; and the Cadi further entreated of her that she would but lay her hands upon his head, for that he hoped that imposition would heal his wound. Leonisa, to give him content, condescended thereunto. This done, and having bored many holes in Hazan's vessel, a fresh east wind favouring them, which seemed to court the sails and woo them that they

might be admitted to come into them, did set them going amain, so that in a very few hours they lost the sight of the Cadi's brigantine; who with tears in his eyes stood looking how the winds carried away his wealth, his wife, and with Leonisa his soul's delight.

With different thoughts from the Cadi's sailed Ricardo and Mahamut; and so, not being willing to touch anywhere, as they went along on land, they passed by the town of Alexandria, launching through the deep Gulf, and without striking sail, or being driven to make use of their oars, they came to the strong island of Corfu, where they took in fresh water; and presently, without any farther stay, they passed by those noted high cliffs the Acroserauros. And the second day they discovered afar off Paquino, the promontory of the most fertile Trinacria, out of whose sight and that famous island of Malta they went flying, for with no less swiftness did this happy bottom bear them.

In fine, compassing that island, some four days after they descried Lampadosia, and anon after the island where they had like to have been wrecked, and the galley wherein Leonisa was split against the rocks, the very sight whereof made her to tremble, calling to mind the danger wherein she had so lately seen herself. The day following they might ken before them their desired and beloved country, which quickened that joy which was already in their hearts; their spirits were transported with this new contentment, which is

one of the greatest which can be had in this life, to arrive after a long captivity safe in their own native country; and the next that may be equalled with it is that which men receive in getting the victory over their enemies.

They found in the galley a great chest full of flags and streamers of silk of sundry colours, with which Ricardo caused the galley to be adorned in most gallant manner. The day was but newly broken whenas they found themselves to be within less than a league of the city, and rowing lustily, and sending forth ever and anon shoutings of joy and gladness, they slacked their oars the nearer they came to the haven, making in very leisurely. In her entering into the port an infinite number of people in an instant appeared; who having seen how slowly that well-trimmed vessel made to land, there was not any one in all the whole city which did not come forth hastening to the seaside.

Whilst they were thus flocking to the shore, Ricardo entreated Leonisa that she would clothe and adorn herself in the same manner as when she entered into the tent of the Bashaws, because he would put a pretty jest upon her parents. She did so; and adding gallantry to gallantry, pearls to pearls, and beauty to beauty (which the heart's contentment commonly increaseth), she attired and dressed herself in such sort as caused a new admiration and wonder. Ricardo also put himself into the Turkish habit, the like did Mahamut and all those Christians that plied the oar,

for there were raiments enough of the slain Turks to serve all of them. When they arrived at the port it was about eight of the clock in the morning, which showed itself so fair and so clear that it seemed to appear so of purpose for to behold that joyful entrance.

Before their entering the port Ricardo made them to discharge their pieces of ordnance belonging to the galley, to wit, one cannon and two falcons. The city answered them with the like. The people stood as thick as they could stand together, expecting the coming in of this goodly vessel, so bravely waving her flying flags and streamers, moving to and fro with a gentle gale of wind. But when they were come so near them as to discern that they were Turkish, by reason of those white turbans that they wore on their heads, they began to wax fearful and jealous of some fraud and deceit; whereupon they betook them to their arms, and as many as were trained soldiers in the city hastened to the port, whilst the horsemen went some one way, some another, scouring the coast. Of all which stir they took great pleasure, who by little and little drew nearer and nearer till they entered the haven, and casting anchor near the shore, throwing out a plank, and pulling in their oars one by one, as it were in procession came on land, which with tears of joy they kissed again and again—an evident sign that they were Christians who had made prize of that vessel. The last that landed were the father and mother of Halima and her kins-

men, all, as we told you, clad after the Turkish fashion. That which made up the total sum or final end of all was fair Leonisa, having a veil cast over her face of crimson taffeta, led by Ricardo and Mahamut; which spectacle drew after them the eyes of all that infinite multitude, who at their landing prostrated themselves as the rest did, saluting the earth with their kisses.

By that time this was done, the Captain and Governor of the city was come up unto them, who knew very well that they of all the rest were the chief and principal persons; but he had scarce come fully near them but presently he knew Ricardo, and ran with open arms and signs of exceeding great joy to embrace him.

There came along with the Governor Cornelio and his parents, and those of Leonisa, with all her kinsfolk, together with those of Ricardo, all which were the greatest persons of rank and quality in the whole city. Ricardo embraced the Governor, and repaid them all with thanks that gave him the parabien of his return. He took Cornelio by the hand, who as soon as he knew him and found that he held him fast, his colour began to change, and began to shake and tremble for fear, and taking Leonisa likewise by the hand, he said, "Gentlemen, of courtesy, sirs, I beseech you, that before we enter the city, and into the temple to give due thanks uuto our Lord God for the great favours which He hath done for us in our misfortunes, you will be pleased to hear me speak

a few words which I am desirous to deliver unto you."

Whereunto the Governor answered that he might utter what he would, for they should all with much content and silence give him both a willing and attentive ear. Presently hereupon all the chiefest amongst them placed themselves round about him; and he, raising his voice to such a height as he might (not overstraining it) be well heard, spake unto them after this manner:—

"Gentlemen, ye may well remember the misfortune which some months since befell me in the garden near the salt-pits, together with the loss of Leonisa; it cannot likewise have fallen out of your memory the diligence which I used in procuring her liberty, since that, being forgetful of mine own, I offered for her ransom all my whole estate; and though this perhaps, to your seeming, was then accounted great liberality, yet can it not, neither ought it, to redound to my praise, since that I was to give it for the ransom of my soul. That which from that time since hath happened to both of us will require long time, a more seasonable conjuncture, and another tongue less troubled than mine. Let it suffice for the present that I tell you, that after many various and strange accidents, and after a thousand lost hopes of remedying our misfortunes, Heaven taking pity of us, without any merit of ours, hath returned us home to our native country, as full of content as abounding in wealth; yet neither from this nor my procured liberty is the end answer-

able to my desire, nor do I take any great contentment in the enjoying of these, but in that which I conceive this both in peace and war my sweet enemy taketh, as well for to see herself free as to see here before her, as she doth, the image of her own soul. Yet notwithstanding I greatly rejoice in this general rejoicing which they receive who have been my companions in misery; and though hard misfortunes and sad mischances are wont to alter our dispositions and to depress valiant minds, yet was it not so with the overthrower of my good hopes; for I may be bold to say it, that she amidst these her miseries hath with the more undaunted courage and constant resolution endured the shipwreck of her disadventures and the encounters of my earnest but honest importunings; wherein that old adage is verified, 'They may change their countries but not their customs who have once gotten a habit of them.' Of all this which I have said I thence infer that I offered my whole estate for her ransom, gave her my soul in my good desires, plotted the means of her liberty, and adventured more for her than myself, my life; and though from all these, in the construction of noble and ingenious dispositions, may be raised engagements of some moment, yet will I not press any one upon her, save only this one which I presume she will make good;" and in saying this, he puts up his hand, and in a very civil and mannerly way took away the scarf from before Leonisa's face, which resembled as it were the removing of a cloud which darkens the beautiful brightness of the sun.

Then did he prosecute his speech, saying, "Lo, here, Cornelio, I deliver unto thee such a jewel, which thou oughtest to esteem above all those things that are esteemed worthy. And so here, thou fair Leonisa, I give thee that which thou hast ever had in thy memory. This if you please you may term liberality; in comparison whereof, to give away my estate, my life, my honour, is all as nothing. Take her, O thou fortunate young man! take her, I say; and if thy knowledge can but come to reach so high as to come to know her worth, I shall hold thee to be the happiest man this day on earth. Together with her I will give thee likewise as much as comes to my share of all that which Heaven hath allotted to us all, which I make account will come to above thirty thousand crowns. All this mayst thou freely enjoy with much pleasure, quietude, and content; and Heaven grant that it may continue many long and happy years. As for myself, being made unfortunate by some squint-eyed star at my birth, since that I must be without Leonisa, I am content to be poor; for he lives too long who lives without Leonisa."

This said, he was silent, as if he had knit a knot upon his tongue. But within a very little while, before that any other spake, recollecting himself, he said, "O Heavens! how do pinching troubles disturb the understanding! I, gentlemen, out of the desire which I have to do good, have not weighed well what I said; for it is not possible that a man should show

himself liberal of that which is another's, not his own. What jurisdiction or power have I in Leonisa for to give her unto another? or how can I make offer of that which is so far from being mine? Leonisa is his, and so much his that, were her parents dead (but long may they live) her affection would find no opposition. And if there may stand perhaps in her way those obligations which, being as she is, discreet, she ought to think she owes me, from this day forward I disclaim them, cancel them, and acknowledge them to be wholly void and of none effect, and therefore unsay what I said before. I give then to Cornelio nothing, because I cannot; only I confirm the grant of my goods made to Leonisa, without desiring or looking for any other recompense save that she esteem for true my honest thoughts, and that she will have this belief of them, that they were never directed nor looked towards any other point save that which stood with her incomparable honesty, her great worth, and infinite beauty." And here Ricardo ended his speech.

Whereunto Leonisa answered in this manner: "If any favours, O Ricardo, you imagine I did Cornelio, whenas you were enamoured and jealous of me, imagine likewise that it was both meet and honest, as being guided by the will and order of my parents, who, intending to make a match between us, laid their command upon me to do him those favours. If you rest satisfied with this, well may you satisfy yourself with that which experience hath made known unto

you of my honesty and reservedness. I speak this for to give you, Ricardo, to understand that my will was always subject to another's will, to wit, my parents', whom I now most humbly, as is meet, beseech and earnestly entreat that they will give me leave and liberty freely to dispose of that which your valour and liberality hath bestowed on me."

Her parents with a very good will gave her their leave so to do, relying on her discretion that she would make use thereof in such sort as should redound always to her own honour and their profit.

Having obtained this license, discreet Leonisa proceeded thus: "I shall entreat you, as many as be here present, that you will bear me witness that I had rather incur the censure of lightness and inconstancy, which none of you all can or shall ever be able to charge me therewith, than to be taxed (which is hateful both in the sight of God and man) of unthankfulness and ingratitude. And therefore, O valiant Ricardo, my goodwill and affection, hitherto so reserved, so perplexed and doubtful, shall now declare itself in your favour, to the end that you men may know that all women are not ingrateful, by my expressing of my thankfulness to you. I am thine, Ricardo, and will be thine till death, if some better knowledge move thee not to deny me thy hand; for I desire nothing more than to have thee to be my husband."

Ricardo hearing these words was so transported

with joy and in a manner so besides himself, that he neither knew how, nor could not answer Leonisa in any other language than humbling himself on his knees before her and kissing her hands, which he held fast by force, bathing them often with his tender and loving tears. Cornelio did shed tears too, but of grief and sorrow; so did Leonisa's parents, but of joy and gladness; and of admiration and contentment all the standers-by.

The Bishop of that city was then there present, and with his benediction and license brought them to the cathedral church, and, dispensing with the time, instantly married them. The joyful news of this wedding was quickly spread over all Trapana; and that very night, in token of rejoicing, infinite lights were set up and great bonfires made, accompanied with ringing of bells and divers loud musical instruments; and for many days after there were masquings, comedies, sporting with canes, running of bulls, and solemn invitations and feastings made by the parents of Ricardo and Leonisa. Mahamut and Halima were reconciled to the Church, who impossibilited of fulfilling her desire in being Ricardo's wife, contented herself in matching with Mahamut. To Halima's parents and kinsmen Ricardo gave liberally of those spoils which he had taken, wherewith they might be enabled to live not only sufficiently but plentifully. In conclusion, all of them remained fully contented and satisfied; and the fame of Ricardo going beyond the bounds of Sicily, spread itself through all the parts

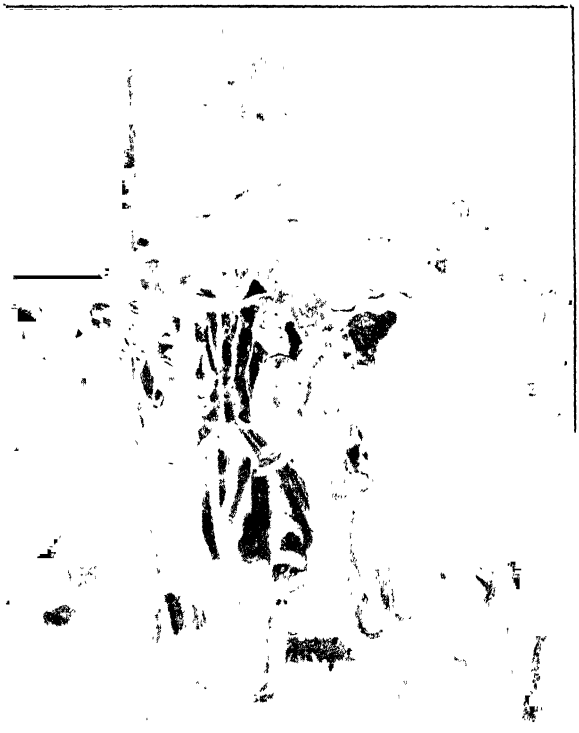
of Italy and many other places under the name of the Liberal Lover; and even to this very day continueth fresh in those many children which he had by Leonisa, who was a rare example of discretion, honesty, reservedness, thankfulness, and beauty.

THE END OF THE FOURTH BOOK

The Fifth Book



THE FORCE OF BLOOD



ON A HOT SUMMER'S NIGHT.

THE FORCE OF BLOOD

In a hot summer's night there returned from recreating themselves at the river of Toledo an ancient gentleman, accompanied with his wife, a little young son, a daughter of the age of seventeen years, and a maid-servant. The night was clear and bright, the hour eleven, the way open, and their pace slow, that they might not lose through weariness those pleasures which the meadows lying along the river-side of Toledo did afford them; and relying on the security which the strict course of justice and the well-disposed people of that city did promise, the good old gentleman went walking leisurely along with his small family, far from any thought of the least disaster that might befall them. But forasmuch as misfortunes commonly then come when we least think on them, contrary wholly to his thought and quite beyond all imagination, there happened one which disturbed their present pleasure, and gave them occasion to weep many years after.

There was a gentleman of that city, about the age of twenty-two, whom his great wealth, his nobleness of

blood, his depraved disposition, his too-much-assumed liberty, and the loose and licentious company that he kept, made him to do such insolent and extravagant actions as did ill beseem his quality, and gave him the attribute of impudent and insolent. This gentleman, then, whose name for good respects we shall conceal, and call Rodolfo, with four other friends of his, all young men full of jollity, and above all exceeding insolent, was coming down the same hill which the old gentleman was going up. These two companies met each other, that of the sheep with that of the wolves, and in a most uncivil kind of manner, void of all shame and honesty, covering their own faces, they discovered those of the mother, daughter, and maid. The old man, and I cannot blame him, was somewhat moved thereat, reproved them for it, and told them they might be ashamed, had they any shame in them, to offer such an affront to gentlewomen. They answered him with mocks and scoffs, and without further misdemeaning themselves they went forward on their way. But the great beauty of that fairest which Rodolfo had seen, which was that of Leocadia (for that was the name of this gentleman's daughter), began in such sort to be imprinted in his memory that it drew his affection after her, and stirred up in him a desire to enjoy her in despite of all inconveniences that might follow thereupon; and in an instant, as sudden as his passion, he imparted his mind to his companions, and both he and they presently resolved to return back and take her from her parents by force,

only therein for to please Rodolfo, for your great and rich men which are lewdly and licentiously given shall never want those that will canonise their evil actions and qualify their bad courses for good; and therefore the hatching of this wicked purpose, the communicating it, the approving of it, and the resolving upon it, to carry away Leocadia, and the putting of it in execution, was done, as it were, all in an instant. They covered their faces with their handkerchers, and drawing out their swords, they came back, and had not gone many steps before they had overtaken those who had not as yet fully made an end of giving thanks unto God for having freed them from the hands of those bold and insolent persons. Rodolfo seized on Leocadia, and taking her up in his arms, ran away with her with all the haste he could; who had not strength enough to defend her from this violence, and the sudden passion that possessed her was so prevalent that it took away the use of her voice, so that she could not cry out, and likewise the light of her eyes, since that she being in a swound, and without any sense, she neither saw who carried her nor whither they did carry her. Her father cried out, the mother shrieked, her little brother wept and cried both together, the maid she tare her hairs and face; but neither their cryings nor shriekings were heard, neither did their tears move compassion, nor the tearing up of furrows in their faces do them any good; for the solitariness of the place, the still silence of night, and the cruel bowels of the malefactors

concurred to give way to this deed of darkness. In a word, the one went their way glad and joyful, and the other sad and mournful.

Rodolfo came home to his house without any let or hindrance; and the parents of Leocadia to theirs, grieved, afflicted, and full of despair. They were blind wanting their daughter's eyes, which were the light of theirs; they were all alone lacking the sweet and pleasing company of Leocadia; they were confounded and amazed, not knowing what to do, whether they should give notice of their misfortune to the Justice or not; they were fearful lest in so doing they should be the principal instrument of publishing their dishonour; they saw themselves necessitated for any matter of favour as being poor though nobly descended; they knew not on whom to complain but their own hard fortune. Rodolfo in the meanwhile, being subtil and crafty, brought Leocadia home to his house and to his own private lodging; and though she were in a swound when he carried her away, yet for the more surety did he blindfold her eyes with a handkercher that she might not take notice of the streets through which she passed, nor of the house nor lodging whereunto he had brought her, having put her thereinto without being seen of anybody, because he had his quarter in his father's house (who was yet living) to himself, and kept the key of his chamber door himself and those of that his whole quarter (an unadvised inconsiderateness of parents, to suffer their sons to live

in that retired manner, without witnesses of their conversation).

Before that Leocadia had recovered her swounding Rodolfo had satisfied his lustful desire; for the unchaste violences of youth seldom or never respect either time or place, but runs on headlong whither their unbridled lust leads them, letting loose the reins to all licentiousness. Having the light of his understanding thus blinded, he robbed Leocadia in the dark of the best jewel that she had. And for that the sins of sensuality reach no further for the most part than the accomplishing and fulfilling of them, Rodolfo presently resolved to turn Leocadia out of doors, and it entered into his imagination to lay her out in the street, being thus in a swound as she was, and going to put this his purpose in execution, he perceived that she was newly come to herself, and began to speak, saying, "O unfortunate wretch that I am! where am I? What darkness is this? What clouds have compassed me about? Lord bless me! who is that that toucheth me? Am I in bed? What aileth me? How comes this to pass? Do you hear me, dear mother? or you, my beloved father? Ay me, unhappy as I am! for I well perceive that my parents hear me not, and that my enemies touch me. Happy should I be if this darkness would endure for ever, not giving my eyes leave to see any more the light of the world, and that this place wherein now I am, whatsoever it be, might serve to be the sepulchre to my honour, since that better is that dishonour which is

not known than that honour which is exposed to the opinion of the vulgar. Now I call that to mind which before I could not, that but a little while since I was in the company of my parents; now I remember that some assaulted me; now I conceive and see that it is not meet that the people should see me. O thou, whosoever thou art, that art here with me" (and with this she took fast hold on Rodolfo's hands), "if thou beest such a one whose soul will admit of entreaty, I entreat and beseech thee that since thou hast triumphed over my fame, that thou wilt likewise triumph over my life; quit me of it instantly, for it is fit that I should lose my life since that I have lost my honour; and consider with thyself that the rigour of that cruelty which thou hast exercised on me in offending me will be tempered and moderated by the pity which thou shalt use towards me by killing me, and so thou shalt show thyself at once both cruel and pitiful."

The reasons which Leocadia alleged to Rodolfo left him in amazedness and confusion, and, like a raw young man unexperienced in the world, he knew not either what to say or do; whose silence made Leocadia the more to wonder, who by her hands sought to disdeceive herself, and to try by touching whether it were a phantasma or a ghost that was with her; but when she found that she touched a body, a very body, and did call to her remembrance the force which was done her going along with her parents, she fell into a true reckoning of her misfortune, and with

the very thought thereof she returned anew to vent those words which her many sighs and sobs had interrupted, saying, "O thou bold, daring man!—for thy actions make me to judge thee to be of no great years—I pardon thee the wrong thou hast done me, and forgive thee that foul offence thou hast committed, so that thou wilt promise and swear unto me that, as thou hast covered it with this darkness, so likewise thou wilt cover it with perpetual silence, without acquainting anybody therewith. It is a small recompense which I crave of thee, in comparison of so great an injury; yet to me, considering the case that I am in, it will be the greatest that I can beg of thee or thou canst give me. Consider, besides, that I never saw thy face, neither do I desire to see it; for though I cannot but still think on the offence done me, yet will I not think upon my offender, neither will I lay up in my memory the image of the author of my hurt. I shall pour forth my complaints between myself and Heaven, without desiring that the world should hear them, which doth not judge of things by their success, but according unto that which is settled in its opinion. I know not how it is that I utter these truths unto thee which usually are wont to be grounded upon the experience of many cases and on the discourse of many years, mine amounting to no more than seventeen; yet do I understand thus much, that grief and sorrow doth alike tie and untie the tongue of the afflicted, one whiles exaggerating the received wrong, that others may be thereby the better

induced to believe it, and another whiles burying it in silence, that others may not give any remedy thereunto; so that which way soever it be, whether I speak or hold my peace, I persuade myself that I cannot but move thee either to believe me or to remedy me, since that not to believe me were ignorance, and to remedy me impossible. Yet mayst thou give me some little ease of my grief, whereof I will not despair, since it will cost thee but little to give it me. This, then, is that which I will say unto thee; see that thou do not flatter thyself with expecting or hoping that time shall allay or pacify that just rage and indignation which I bear, and still shall, towards thee; neither do thou go about to heap more wrongs upon me because thou art not likely further to enjoy me, and, having already enjoyed me, methinks thy evil desires should be the less inflamed. Make account that thou offendest me by accident, without giving way to any good discourse, and I will make account that I was not born and brought forth into the world, or if I were, it was for to be unfortunate. Put me therefore presently forth into the street, or at least near unto the great church, for from thence I shall know how to go directly home. Moreover, thou shalt likewise swear unto me that thou shalt not follow me, nor seek to know where I dwell, nor ask me neither my parents' or mine own name, nor of my kinsfolk and allies, who for that they are so rich and so noble they may not be in me so unhappy and unfortunate. Return me answer to these my demands, and if thou art afraid that I may

hap to know thee by thy voice, I would have thee again to know that, excepting my father and my confessor, I have not spoken with any man in my life, and very few are they which I have heard speak in their ordinary talk and communication that I could be able to distinguish them by the sound of their voice."

The answer which Rodolfo returned to the discreet discourse of afflicted Leocadia was no other save his embracing her and making show that he had a mind to renew in himself his lustful desire, and in her her further dishonour; the which being perceived by Leocadia, with greater force and resistance than her tender age could promise, she defended herself with her feet, with her hands, with her teeth, and with her tongue, saying, "Know, traitor as thou art, and thou wicked man without soul or conscience, whosoever thou beest, that those spoils which thou hast had of me were such as thou mightst have taken from a stock or stone without any sense or feeling, a conquest and triumph which cannot but redound to thy reproach; and therefore that which thou pretendest thou shalt not obtain but by my death. When I was in a swound thou tookst thy pleasure and didst what thou listest with me, but now that I am come to myself, and have my spirits and wits about me, thou shalt sooner kill me than overcome me: for if now being awake I should without resistance yield to thy abominable lust, thou mightst, and not without just cause, imagine that my swounding was feigned when

thou wast so bold and insolent in working my utter ruin and destruction."

In conclusion, Leocadia so bestirred herself, and made such stout resistance, that the strength and courage, and with it the desires, of Rodolfo began to flag; and for that the insolency which he had used with Leocadia had no other beginning than from a violent lascivious impetuousness, from which never springeth that true love which is permanent, but instead of that impetuousness which passeth away there remaineth only repentance, or at least a coldness of will to second it, Rodolfo then growing somewhat cooler, but much more weary, without speaking any one word, left Leocadia in his bed and lodging, and went to seek out his companions, for to consult and advise with them what he were best to do.

Leocadia perceived that she was left all alone and fast shut up, whereupon rising from the bed, she went roaming about the room, groping the walls with her hands for to see if she could find a door to get out at or a window to leap down. She found the door, but too strongly locked for her to open it, and she lighted on a window which she was able to unhasp, by which the moon shined in so clear and so bright that Leocadia could distinguish the colours of certain damasks which adorned the lodging. She could discern that the bed was gilded, and so richly furnished that it seemed rather the bed of a prince than of a private gentleman. She reckoned the number of the chairs and stools, and of the escritorios

and cabinets; she noted the place where the door stood, and though she saw tables hanging on the walls, yet she discerned not the pictures that were drawn in them. The window was large, well garnished and guarded with a great many bars, the prospect whereof was into a garden, which was likewise enclosed with high walls—difficulties which opposed themselves to that intention which she had to leap down into the street. All that she saw and noted of the capaciousness and rich furniture of the room gave her to understand that the master and owner thereof must needs be some principal person, and not of mean wealth, but exceeding rich. Upon a cabinet which stood near to the window she espied a little crucifix all of silver, the which she took thence and put it in her sleeve, not out of devotion, and as little out of theft, but only drawn unto it by a discreet design which she had in her head. This being done, she shuts the window, leaving it as it was before, and returned back to the bed, expecting what end such a bad beginning would have.

It was not to her seeming much more than half an hour when she heard the door of the lodging open, and that one came unto her, and without speaking so much as one word, with a handkercher hoodwinked her eyes, and taking her by the arm, took her out of the lodging, she hearing him shut the door after him. This person was Rodolfo, who, though he had gone to seek out his companions, yet was he not willing to find them, it seeming unto him that it was not fit

that he should have any witnesses of that which had passed with that damosel, but was rather resolved to tell them that, repenting himself of that ill deed and moved with her tears, he had put her off, leaving her in the mid-way. Having thus bethought himself, he returned back with all speed to place Leocadia near unto the great church, as she had formerly entreated of him, before it were day, lest otherwise it might disappoint his purpose, and he be enforced to keep her in his lodging till the next ensuing night, in which space of time neither was he willing to use any more force or violence nor to give occasion of being known. He brought her then to the place which they commonly call by the name of Ayuntamiento, where the people publicly assemble and meet together; and there, in a counterfeit voice, and in a tongue half Portuguese and half Spanish, he told her that she might thence go securely to her own house, and that none should follow and tract her whither she went; and before that she had time and leisure to unknit and loosen the handkercher he had got himself far enough out of her sight.

Leocadia remained all alone; she took away the band from before her eyes; she knew the place where he had left her; she looked round about her on every side; she saw no person living, but suspecting that some would follow her aloof off, at every step she made a stand, advancing herself in that manner in her way homeward, which was not very far from the church; and for to deceive the spies, if by chance

they should follow her, she entered into a house that she found open, and from thence by little and little went to her own, where she found her parents amazed and astonished, and so far from preparing themselves to go to bed that they had not so much as entertained the least thought of taking any rest at all; who when they saw her, ran unto her with open arms, and with tears in their eyes lovingly received her. Leocadia's heart boiling with passion, and being much troubled in mind, entreated her parents to withdraw themselves and to go a little aside with her; they did so. And then and there, in a few words, she gave them an account of that her unfortunate success, with all the circumstances belonging thereunto, and that she could by no means come to the knowledge of him that assaulted her and robbed her of her honour. She acquainted them with all that she had seen in that theatre, wherein was represented and acted that woeful tragedy of her misfortune—the window, the garden, the bars of iron, the cabinets, the bed, the damasks; and last of all she showed them the crucifix which she had brought thence with her; before which image they renewed their tears, made deprecations, called for vengeance, and begged of God miraculous chastisements. She likewise told them that although she did not desire to come to have knowledge of her offender, yet if it seemed good unto her parents to have him known by means of that image, they might do it by causing the clerks of all the parishes in the city to publish at divine service in their several churches that

he who had lost such an image he should find it put in the hands of some such person as the party that lost it should nominate and appoint for the receiving of it, and so by knowing the owner of the image they might come thereby to know the house as also the person of their enemy.

Hereunto her father replied, "What you have said had been well said, daughter, if the crafty and cunning nowadays did not oppose itself to thy discreet discourse, since that it is clear and manifest that this image may not suddenly be missed, or if missed, no great reckoning made of it, and the owner thereof will certainly apprehend and imagine that the person who was with him in the lodging had taken it away, and that if it should come to his knowledge that some religious man hath it in his keeping, he will rather serve his turn, and make use of his knowing who it should be that gave it to him that now hath it, than be willing to declare and make known the owner that lost it; and it may likewise happen that another may come for it, to whom the owner thereof hath given some signs and tokens whereby to know and challenge it to be his; and if this should be so, we should be in worse case than before, and remain rather confounded than informed, though we should use the same artifice and cunning which we suspect them for, by giving it to a religious man by a third person. That, daughter, which is herein to be done is to keep it, that as it was a witness of thy disgrace so it may become an evidence to procure thee justice, and right the great wrong

which thou hast received. And withal consider, dear daughter, that one ounce of public dishonour doth lie heavier upon us than a pound weight of secret infamy. 'True dishonour consists in sin, and true honour in virtue.' God is offended with our sayings, our doings, and our desires; and since that thou neither in thought, word, nor deed hast offended Him, account thyself honest, for I shall hold thee so, and shall never look upon thee but like a kind and loving father."

With these prudent reasons did this good father comfort Leocadia; and her mother, embracing her again and again, did likewise endeavour to comfort her; whereupon she fell afresh a-weeping and a-crying, and hiding her head, as they say, for shame, she betook herself to a private and retired course of life, under the shelter and protection of her parents, being honestly and decently though but poorly clad.

Rodolfo in the meanwhile being come home, and sitting him down in his chamber, casting his eye aside, he found the image of his crucifix missing, and presently imagined who might carry it away; but he made slight of it, and for that he was rich he did not reckon much of it, neither did his parents question him for it whenas, being within three days after to go for Italy, he did deliver up by tale to one of his mother's chambermaids all that which he left behind him in the lodging, whereof she took a true inventory.

It was many days since that Rodolfo had resolved to travel into Italy; and his father, who had been there in his younger years, persuaded him thereunto, telling him that they were not gentlemen who were only so in their own country, but that they must likewise show themselves to be such abroad. For these and other reasons Rodolfo disposed his will to comply with that of his father, who gave him bills of credit for good round sums of money for Barcelona, Genoa, Rome, and Naples; and he with two of his comrades presently departed, being much taken with that which he had heard some soldiers repeat of the great store of inns in Italy and France, and of the liberty which Spaniards took in their lodgings. That sounded well in his ear, "Lo, sir, here be good tender pullets, young pigeons, fine white fat veal, a good gammon of bacon, excellent sausages, and the like;" which the soldiers did magnify in mentioning them unto him, showing what a great deal of difference they found when they came out of those parts into these, laying before him the scarcity of provision and the discommodities of the inns of Spain. In conclusion, he went away, so little thinking on that which passed betwixt himself and Leocadia as if there had never been any such matter.

She in the interim led her life in the house of her parents with all possible retiredness, without suffering herself to be seen of any, as one that was fearful lest they might read her misfortune in her forehead. But within a few months she perceived that she was

driven to do that by force and constraint which hitherto she had done willingly and of her own accord; she saw that it was fit and convenient for her to live closely and retiredly, because she found herself to be with child—a success which occasioned those tears which in some sort had been forgotten to break forth anew from the fountains of her eyes; and those sighs and lamentations which had lain for a while calm and quiet began to rise, and like fierce winds fell a-beating and waging war one against another, her mother's discretion and gentle persuasions not being able to allay the violence of her passion nor afford her any comfort.

Time fled away with a swift wing, and the time of her delivery was come, but with that secrecy that they durst not trust a midwife therewith, so that her mother usurping this office, brought forth to the light of the world a little young son, one of the prettiest, sweetest, and beautifullest babes that thought itself could imagine. With the like wariness, circumspection, and secrecy wherewith it was born, they conveyed it to a country village, where it continued four years; at the end whereof, with the name of nephew, his grandfather brought him home to his own house, where he was bred up, though not very richly, yet at least very virtuously. The child was (whom they named Luys, that being his grandfather's name) of a fair complexion, a pleasing countenance, a sweet disposition, a gentle nature, a quick wit, and in all those his actions which in that tender age he could do he gave apparent signs

and tokens that he was begotten by some noble father; and in such sort his wit, beauty, and pretty behaviour did make his grandfather and grandmother so far in love with him that they came to hold their daughter's unhappiness to be a happiness in that she had given them such a nephew. When he went through the street they did shower down upon him a thousand benedictions; some blessed his beauty, other some the mother that bare him; these, the father that begat, and those, him who had brought him up and given him such good breeding.

With this applause of those that knew him, and knew him not, the child grew to be seven years of age, in which time he had learned to read Spanish and Latin, and to write a very good hand; for his grandfather's and grandmother's intention was to make him virtuous and wise, since that they could not make him rich, not being ignorant "that virtue and wisdom were the only riches over which neither thieves nor fortune had any power."

It happened one day that the child was sent by his grandmother on a message to a kinswoman of hers, and it was his chance to pass through a street where some gentlemen were running careers with their horses; he stayed to look on them, and for the getting of a better place he ran athwart from the one side to the other just in such an ill conjuncture of time that he could not avoid a horse's running over him, whose rider with all the strength he had was not able to keep back in the fury of his career. He ran over him, and

left him stretched on the ground for dead, pouring out much blood from his head.

This sad mischance had scarce happened, when lo, an ancient gentleman, who was beholding the career, with extraordinary dexterity leapt from his horse and went where the child was, and taking him out of one's arms that held him, took him into his own, and without making any reckoning of his grey hairs, or regarding his authority, which was much, neglecting the grave Spanish pace, with large steps he hied him home to his own house, willing his servants to leave him, and to go and seek out a skilful surgeon for to cure the child. Many gentlemen followed him, grieving and pitying the misfortune that had befallen so sweet and fair a child; for it was presently voiced abroad that he that was thus trodden down was Luisico, the kinsman of such a gentleman, naming his grandfather. This voice ran from mouth to mouth, till it came at last to the ears of his grandfather and grandmother and likewise to those of his retired mother, who being fully and truly certified of this unlucky and lamentable accident, ran forthwith out of doors as if they had been mad, to know what was become of their beloved. And because the gentleman that carried him away was so well known and of such principal rank and quality, many of those whom they met withal told them where his house was, whither, being carried between love and fear, they soon arrived, just at that instant when the child was under the surgeon's hands. The gentleman and

his wife, the owners of the house, entreated those whom they thought to be his parents that they would not weep nor fill the air with the cry of their complaints, being that it could do the child no good. The surgeon, who was famous for his skill, having dressed him with a gentle hand, and as a master of his faculty, told them that the wound was not so mortal as at first he feared it had been.

When he was half dressed, Luisico's memory came to him, which until then had left him, and was very glad and cheery in seeing his grandfather and grandmother there, who with tears in their eyes asked him how he did. He answered, well, save that he was much pained in his body and his head. The surgeon advised them that they should not speak unto him, but that they would give him leave to take his rest. They did so; and then his grandfather began to give the master of the house thanks for that his great charity which he had extended towards his nephew; whereunto the gentleman replied that he needed not to thank him, giving him to understand that when the child fell and was overborne by the horse, it seemed unto him that he saw the face of a son of his own whom he tenderly loved, and that this moved him to take him up in his arms and bring him home to his own house, where he would that he should continue till he were fully cured, and that he should not want cherishing nor anything else that the house could afford that was needful and necessary for him. His wife, who was a noble lady, said (the

phrase a little varied) in effect the very same words, and did somewhat more amplify and endear her promises.

The grandfather and grandmother of the child did much wonder at and admire this their great Christianity; and the mother much more, for her troubled spirit being somewhat quieted by the surgeon's comfortable words, she diligently observed the lodging where her son lay, and by apparent signs and tokens clearly knew that that was the room where her honour had its end and her misfortune its beginning; and though it were not now hung and adorned with damask as then it was, she knew the form and fashion of it; she saw the window with the iron bars which looked into a garden, and though it were shut that the air might not offend the wounded child, she did ask whether that window did butt or no upon some garden, and it was told her it did; but that which she most certainly knew was that that was the very same bed which had been the tombstone to her grave; and, moreover, that that very cabinet whereon stood the crucifix which she carried away with her remained still in the selfsame place. Lastly, the stairs brought to light the truth of all her suspicions, which she had numbered and counted when she was led out of the lodging blindfold; I say, those stairs which were from her going out thence to the street, which with discreet advisement she had told. And when she came home, having taken leave of her son, she fell to counting of them again, and found the number of them to fall out right and just, and comparing some signs with other

some, she was fully persuaded that this her imagination was undoubtedly true; whereof she gave a large account unto her mother, who like a discreet woman informed herself whether this gentleman where her nephew now was had any son or no. And she found that he whom we call Rodolfo was his son, and that he was in Italy, and casting up the time which, as it was told them, he had been absent from Spain, they saw that they jumped just with the same years of the child. She gave notice of all this to her husband, and betwixt them two and their daughter they agreed to expect how God would dispose of the wounded child, who within fifteen days was out of danger of his received hurt, and at the end of thirty was upon his feet and able to walk up and down the chamber, in all which time he was visited by his mother and grandmother, and made as much of by the owners of the house as if he had been their own child. And now and then, Doña Estefania (for so was the gentleman's wife called) talking with Leocadia, told her that this child did so well resemble a son of hers who was in Italy that she never looked upon him but that it seemed unto her that she had her own son in her eye. From these words of hers, Leocadia took occasion on a time to tell her, when she was all alone with her, such things as had before been debated and agreed upon by her parents to signify unto her, which were these, or the like:—

"That day, madam, wherein my parents heard that their nephew was so grievously hurt, they believed

and verily thought that Heaven had been shut against them, and that all the world had fallen upon them; they imagined that they had lost the light of their eyes, whom they loved so dearly, and in such an extraordinary kind of manner that by many degrees it exceeded that which parents commonly bear to their own children. But, as we usually say that 'when God gives the wound He likewise gives the medicine to cure it,' this child hath found it in this house, and I likewise therein call to mind some things which I shall never forget the longest day of my life. I, dear lady, am noble, because my parents are so, and so have been all my ancestors, who with a mediocrity of the goods of fortune have happily upheld their honour and reputation wheresoever they lived."

Doña Estefania was strucken both with wonder and suspension hearkening to Leocadia's discourse, and how feelingly her words came from her, and could not believe, though she saw it, that so much discretion could be comprehended in so few years, judging her to be but some twenty years of age, little more or less; and without saying anything unto her, or replying so much as one word, she stood expecting to hear what she would furthermore say, which was sufficient enough for the informing her of her son's waggishness and wantonness, and of her own disgrace and dishonour, of his stealing and carrying her away by force, of his blindfolding of her eyes, of his bringing her to that very lodging, and telling her the signs and tokens whereby she certainly knew that the same was the

room which so strongly confirmed her suspicion; for further confirmation whereof, she took from out her bosom the image of the crucifix which she had taken thence, and spake thus:—

"Thou, Lord, who wast a witness of the force that was offered me, do Thou judge my cause, and make me that amends and reparation of my honour as of right is due unto me. From the top of that cabinet I took this crucifix, with a purpose only to put me still in mind of the wrong I received, but not to crave vengeance thereof (for I pretend no such thing), only I shall entreat and beg of Thee that Thou wilt give me some comfort whereby I may the better be enabled to bear this my disgrace with patience. This child, lady, on whom you have exercised the utmost of your charity is your true grandchild; it was God's will and the permission of Heaven that the horse ran over him, to the end that, by his being brought to your house, that I should find that therein which I hope to find, and if not the remedy which is most convenient for the curing of my misfortune, yet at least the means which may help me to bear it the better."

Having said this, she fell down in a swound in Doña Estefania's arms, who like a noble gentlewoman, in whom compassion and pity is as natural as cruelty in men, had scarce perceived Leocadia's swounding but she joined her cheeks to hers, shedding thereon so many tears that there was no need of sprinkling any other water in her face to bring her again to herself.

These two being thus glued each to other, it was Doña Estefania's husband's hap to come into the room, bringing Luisico in with him, leading him by the hand, and seeing Estefania weep and Leocadia lying in a swound, he was very hasty in inquiring what might be the cause thereof and whence it proceeded. The child embraced his mother as his cousin, and his grandmother as his benefactress, and did likewise ask why they did weep.

"Great and strange things, sir, I have to tell you," said Estefania to her husband, "the whole sum whereof shall end in telling you that I must assure you that this gentlewoman who fell into a swound is your daughter, and this pretty boy your grandchild. This truth which I tell you was delivered unto me by this good gentlewoman, and the countenance of this sweet child hath confirmed it, wherein we have both of us beheld as in a glass our own son."

"If you tell me no more than this, wife," replied her husband, "I do not understand you."

By this time Leocadia was come to herself, and holding fast still the crucifix, she seemed to be turned into a sea of tears. All which had put the gentleman into a great confusion and amazement, from which he was freed by his wife's recounting unto him all that which Leocadia had imparted unto her; and he, by the divine permission of Heaven, did believe it as verily as if it had been proved and made good by many substantial and true witnesses.

He comforted and embraced Leocadia, and kissed

his grandchild Luisico, and that very day despatched a post to Naples, advising his son to come home with all possible speed, because he had concluded a marriage for him with a marvellous fair and beautiful gentlewoman, and such a one as was most fit and convenient for him. Nor would they by any means consent and give way that Leocadia or her child should back again to her father's house, who resting beyond measure contented with this good success of their daughter, gave infinite thanks therefor unto God.

The post returned from Naples; and Rodolfo, out of greediness to enjoy so fair a wife as his father had signified unto him, within two days after that he had received his father's letters, occasion of passage being offered unto him for his coming into Spain, taking hold thereof, he embarked himself with his two comrades, who had never left him, and with a prosperous wind in twelve days he arrived at Barcelona, and from thence, taking post-horses, in seven more he came to Toledo, and entered into his father's house in such a brave and gallant fashion as did exceed, for in him were met together the extremes of both. His parents were very much joyed with the welfare and arrival of their son.

Leocadia, who unseen from a private place had a full view and sight of him, that she might not transgress the order given her by Doña Estefania, was in a quandary, and in great doubt and suspension what would be the issue of this business. Rodolfo's comrades would needs go presently home to their

own houses; but Estefania would by no means let them, because she had need of them for the effecting of her design. It was near night when Rodolfo arrived, and whilst that supper was making ready Estefania called her son's comrades aside, being verily persuaded that these must needs be two of those three who, as Leocadia had told her, accompanied Rodolfo that night when they stole her away, and with great and earnest entreaties she besought them that they would tell her whether they did not or no remember that their son on such a night, so many years since, stole away such a woman; for to know the truth thereof much concerned the honour and peace of not only his parents but of all their alliance and kindred. And with such and so great endearments she knew how to crave this courtesy of them, and in such sort to assure them that from the discovering of this stealth there should no damage follow thereupon, that in conclusion they held it fit to confess the truth, and so told her that they two, and another friend of Rodolfo's, on a summer's night, the very same which she had named unto them, had stolen away a young gentlewoman, and that Rodolfo carried her away with him, whilst they detained the rest of their company, who with outcries sought to defend her from that violence, and that the next day following Rodolfo told them that he carried her to his lodging, and that this was all that they could say in answer to her demand.

The confession of those two was the key which

opened the door to all the doubts which in such a case could offer themselves, and therefore she resolved with herself to bring that good purpose which she had entertained to a good end, which was this: A little before that they were to sit down to supper, Rodolfo's mother went apart with her son into a by-room, and putting a picture into his hands, she said withal unto him, "Son Rodolfo, I will give you a very savoury and pleasing supper in showing thee thy spouse. This is her true picture; but I must tell you, and would have you to think well upon it, that what is wanting unto her in beauty is superabundantly supplied with her virtues. She is noble and discreet and indifferently rich, and since that your father and myself have made choice of her for you, assure yourself that she is such a one as is fitting for you."

Rodolfo viewed the picture with a searching and judicious eye, and after he had done looking upon it he said, "If painters, who commonly are wont to be prodigal of their bestowing of beauty on those faces which they draw, have dealt so likewise with this, I dare be bold to say it, and verily believe it, that the original to this counterfeit must needs be foulness itself. In good faith, lady mother, it is just and meet that children should obey their parents in all that they shall command them, but withal it is likewise convenient, and much more fitting, that parents should put their children into such an estate and condition as shall give them content, and in a lawful way stand with their liking; and since that marriage is a knot

which is not undone but by death, it were not amiss, but rather much to be desired, that the laces wherewith this knot is to be knit should be equal and alike, and wrought of one and the same threads. Virtue, nobleness, discretion, and the goods of fortune may well please and delight the understanding of him who shall happen to have a wife so qualified, but that the foulness of such a one should cheer and glad the eyes of her husband in my opinion it is impossible. I am but a young man, yet I understand myself very well in this particular, and know that a just and due delight which married folks may enjoy and take one in other may sort and stand very well with the rites of holy matrimony, and if that once fail and be wanting, matrimony halts and goes lame, and contradicteth its second intention. Now, then, to think or imagine that a foul face, which a man is to have at all hours before his eyes, at bed and at board, may please and delight, I say again and again that I hold it impossible. Therefore, as you are my dear and loving mother, I humbly beseech you that you will give me such a companion and yoke-fellow that I may take some delight in entertaining the time with her, and not such a one as may cause a loathing in me as oft as I shall look upon her, to the end that without resting or turning away to this or that other side, equally, and in a direct way, we may both of us the more easily draw together and bear that yoke the better which Heaven hath allotted and laid upon us. And if this gentlewoman be noble, discreet, and rich, as your

ladyship implieth, she cannot want a husband that may happily be of a different humour from me. Some there be that seek after nobleness, others discretion, others money, others beauty, and I am of the last. For nobleness, thanks unto Heaven, my ancestors, and my parents, that is left to me by inheritance; for discretion, so as a woman be not an ignorant, an ass, or a dolt, it sufficeth that she do not break, as they say, her needle's point, that she be not so witty as by the subtilness thereof to run into some absurdity or other to her shame and dishonour, so foolish that she should not be of some good use and profit; for riches, those likewise of my parents make me not to be fearful of ever coming to be poor. It is beauty that I seek after; it is one that is fair and well-favoured that I desire, not regarding any other dowry than honesty and a sweet and fair behaviour; for if my wife shall bring this with her I shall serve God with pleasure and delight, and give a good and contented old age to my parents."

His mother rested very well satisfied with Rodolfo's reasons, because by them she knew that it made all as she would have it for her design; and therefore made him answer that she would procure such a marriage for him as should be answerable to his desire, and that he should not trouble or afflict himself about it, for it was an easy piece of business to undo that agreement which was made for his marrying with that gentlewoman. Rodolfo rendered her many thanks, and the hour of supper being come they went forth to

supper, and the father and mother and Rodolfo and his comrades being already sate down at table, Doña Estefania, as if she had forgotten herself, "O Lord!" quoth she, "where was my mind? Have I not used my guest kindly, think you, to sit down before she comes? Go one of you presently, and tell Leocadia that, without using any nicety or excusing herself that here are strangers, she come presently hither to honour this my table, and that they who sit at it are all of them my children and her servants." All this was her plot, and of all that which was therein to be done Leocadia had been before advertised.

It was not long ere Leocadia came and entered the room, presenting on the sudden in her person the fairest show that either artificial or natural beauty could afford. She came in clad, it being then winter, in a gown of black velvet set with buttons of gold and pearl, a girdle and chain of diamonds; her own hairs, which were long and of an auburn colour, did serve her instead of her head-dressings, whose invention of ribbands, tufts of feathers, and glitterings of diamonds, which were interwoven with them, did dazzle the eyes of the beholders.

Leocadia was of a gentle disposition and of a quick and lively spirit; she brought her son along with her, leading him by the hand, two damosels going before her, lighting her in with two wax lights in two silver candlesticks. They all rose up to do her reverence as if she had been some deity sent down from heaven which had thus miraculously appeared unto them,

None of those that were there but stood astonished, beholding so rare a piece, and the more they looked on her the more they were amazed, insomuch that they were not able to speak unto her—such power hath beauty to impose silence.

Leocadia, with a graceful behaviour and discreet carriage, made lowly curtesy and obeisance to them all; and Estefania, taking her by the hand, sate her next unto herself, right over against Rodolfo. The little boy he sate by his grandfather. Rodolfo, who now at a nearer distance beheld the incomparable beauty of Leocadia, said within himself, "If she had but the one half of this beauty which my mother hath made choice of for to be my spouse, I should hold myself the happiest man in the world. What is this which I now see? Is it happily some angel that I stand thus gazing on?" And in this rapture of his, the fair image of Leocadia went entering in by his eye to take possession of his soul; who all the while that supper lasted, seeing him likewise so near unto herself, whom she now loved more than the light of those her eyes which now and then by stealth looked on him, she began to revolve in her imagination and to call to mind that which had passed heretofore with Rodolfo; whereupon those hopes began to wax weak in her soul which his mother had given her of his being her husband, fearing that the shortness of her fortune would be answerable in the end to his mother's promises. She considered with herself how near she was of being happy or unhappy for ever, and so

intense was this consideration, and so strong and violent these her thoughts and imaginations, that they did in such sort trouble and oppress her heart that she began to sweat and to change colour in an instant; whereupon suddenly followed a swounding, which enforced her to let her head fall into Doña Estefania's lap, had she not received it within her arms, who as soon as she saw her in this trance, much startled therewith, made her bosom her pillow.

A sudden passion seized on them all, and rising from the board, they addressed themselves to procure her recovery. But he who gave best evidence of his sorrow was Rodolfo, who that the sooner he might come in to help her, out of mere haste stumbled and fell twice; but neither with unclasping her gown, nor unlacing her petticoat, nor with sprinkling water on her face, did she come again to herself, but rather the rising of her breast and the failing of her pulse, which they could not find to move or stir, went giving precise signs and apparent tokens of her death. And the men and maid-servants of the house, more passionate than well-advised, cried out aloud, "Oh, she is dead! she is dead!"

This sorrowful news, accompanied with such woeful lamentations, came at last to the ears of Leocadia's parents, whom for a more pleasing occasion Doña Estefania had kept close and secret till she saw a fit time for to bring them forth in public; who together with the priest of the parish (for he likewise was shut up with them), breaking the order given

them by Estefania, came forth into the room where they were. The priest made in quickly, for to see if by any signs she gave any tokens of repenting herself of her sins, to the end that he might absolve her of them. And whereas he thought to have found but one in a swound, he found two; for Rodolfo was now in the like case, lying with his face on Leocadia's breast. His mother gave way unto him, and was willing that he should draw thus near unto her, as unto a thing that was to be his; but when she saw that her son likewise was without sense and lay as it were for dead, she was likewise upon the point to lose her self, and had questionless lost it had she not presently perceived that Rodolfo began, as he did, to come again to himself; who was much ashamed that they had seen him run into such extremes.

But his mother, as one that divined of that which her son thought, said unto him, "Be not ashamed, son, of these extremes which thou hast committed, but be ashamed of those which thou shouldst not have committed, when thou shalt come to know that which I will no longer conceal from thee, though I thought to have deferred the doing of it until a more joyful conjuncture. I would have thee therefore to know, son of my soul, that this gentlewoman whom you see lying thus in a swound in mine arms is thy true spouse. I style her thy true spouse, because myself and thy father have made choice of her to be thy wife; for that which I presented to thee in the picture was a false one."



SUPPER CAMP IN.

When Rodolfo heard this, transported with his amorous and inflamed desire, and the name of husband removing all those rubs which the honesty and decency of the place might lay in his way, he brake through the company, and laying his face to that of Leocadia, remained as one expecting that his soul should breathe itself forth, and either bring hers back again or make its abode with hers for ever.

But when the tears of all, through extreme grief, went still more and more increasing, and when through excess of sorrow their lamentations and outcries augmented more and more and grew louder and higher, and that the hairs of the head and beard of Leocadia's mother and father by tearing and pulling of them up by the roots began to wax less and less, and that the shrill exclamations of their son Rodolfo with their noise and clamour pierced the heavens, Leocadia returned again unto herself, and with her returning to life returned that joy and content which had absented themselves from the breasts of those that were about her. Leocadia found herself linked close with fast embracings in Rodolfo's arms, and sought by honest force to unloose herself from them. But he said unto her, "No, sweet mistress, it must not be so; it is not meet that you should strive to get yourself from forth his arms who holds you already so fast in his soul."

With these kind words Leocadia came wholly to herself, and perfectly recovered her lost senses; and Doña Estefania made an end of going any further

forward with her former determination, speaking to the priest that he should forthwith without any further delay espouse her son to Leocadia. He did so, because there was no difficulty that interposed itself for the hindering of these espousals.

Which being now fully ended and finished, I leave it to some choicer pen, and to some other wit more refined than mine, to recount the general joy and gladness of all those that were there present; the embracements which Leocadia's parents gave Rodolfo; the thanks which they gave to Heaven and to his parents; the fair offers of love and friendship on their parts; the admiration and wonder of Rodolfo's comrades, who so unexpectedly saw the very selfsame night of their arrival there so fair a match made up; and they wondered the more when they knew by Doña Estefania's discourse before them all that Leocadia was the damosel which in their company her son had violently stolen and carried away.

Nor did Rodolfo remain any whit less suspenseful; and for the better certifying himself of this truth he entreated Leocadia that she would acquaint him with some sign or token whereby he might come to the full knowledge of that which he did not doubt of, because his parents had so well approved his matching with her; whereunto she made this answer: "When I returned and came to myself from out another swounding, I found myself, dear sir, in your arms without mine honour; but I think it now well employed, since that in this my latter coming to myself I find myself in the

same arms I did then, but with much more honour. And if this token be not sufficient, let that suffice of the image of a crucifix, which none could steal from you but myself, which you could not choose but miss the next morning; and if that be the very same which your mother hath now in her keeping, you are the image of my soul, which I highly adore, and you shall be still nearest and dearest unto me as long, my dear, as God shall permit us to live together." Whereupon he embracing her anew, their parents bestowed their benedictions upon them, and all the rest that were by bid God give them joy.

Supper came in, and the musicians were come, which were beforehand provided for this purpose. Rodolfo beheld himself in the looking-glass of his son's face. The grandfathers and grandmothers on both sides wept for very joy; nor was there any corner in all the whole house which was not visited with a jubilee, with exceeding great content and gladness. And although night did fly away with its black nimble wings, yet it seemed to Rodolfo that it did go and walk not with wings but with crutches, so great was the desire which he had to see himself all alone with his beloved spouse. At last came that desired hour; they all of them went to bed to take their rest, and the whole house remained buried in silence. But so cannot the truth of this story, by reason that the many children will not give way thereunto, and that noble offspring which they have remaining in Toledo; and yet these happy couple

are still living, and long may they live, to the joy and comfort of themselves, their children, and grandchildren. All which was brought to pass by the permission of Heaven, and by the force of that blood which the valiant, noble, and Christian grandfather of Luisico saw spilt upon the ground.

THE END OF THE FIFTH BOOK

The Sixth Book

THE SPANISH LADY

THE SPANISH LADY

AMONGST those many spoils which the conquerors of the famous Northern Island, governed then by a most noble Queen, carried away from the city of Cadiz, Clotaldo, captain of a squadron of ships, brought along with him to Mundolin, metropolis of that isle, a girl of the age of seven years, little more or less, and this contrary to the will and knowledge of the General; who with great diligence caused search to be made for the child, that she might be returned back to her parents, who had complained unto him of the wanting of their daughter, humbly beseeching him that since his Excellency was pleased to content himself with their goods, and out of his nobleness had left their persons free, that they only might not be so miserable and unhappy, that seeing they were now left poor, they might not be robbed of their daughter, who was the joy of their hearts, the light of their eyes, and the fairest and beautifullest creature that was in all the city. The General caused proclamation to be made throughout all the whole fleet, that upon pain of death

he whosoever had the child should restore her back to her parents. But no penalties nor fears of punishment could move Clotaldo to obey the General's command; for he kept her very secret and close in his own ship, standing wonderfully affectioned, though very Christianly, to the incomparable beauty of Isabella (for so was the child called).

In conclusion, her parents remained without her very sad and disconsolate, and Clotaldo beyond measure exceeding glad and joyful. He arrived at Mundolin, and delivered up this fair maid as a most rich spoil to his wife; but as good luck would have it, all they of Clotaldo's house were Christians in heart, though in public they made show to follow the religion of the country.

Clotaldo had a son named Ricaredo, about some twelve years of age, taught by his parents to love and fear God. Catalina, the wife of Clotaldo, a noble, Christian, and prudent lady, bare such great love and affection to Isabella that as if she had been her own daughter she bred, cherished, industriated, and instructed her; and the child had such good natural abilities that she did easily apprehend and learn whatsoever they taught her. With time, and the kind usage she received, she went forgetting those cockerings of her true parents, but not so much that she did cease to think on them and to sigh often for them; and although she went learning the tongue of the island, yet did she not lose her Spanish, for Clotaldo took care to bring Spaniards secretly to

his house to talk and converse with her; and so, without forgetting her own natural language, she spake the other as well as if she had been born in Mundolin.

After that they had taught her all manner of works which a well-bred damosel could or ought to learn, they taught her to read and to write more than indifferently well. But that wherein she did excel was in playing upon all those instruments of music which might with most decency become a woman, accompanying the same with such a voice, which Heaven had bestowed on her in so rare and singular a kind, that when she chanted she enchanted all that heard her.

All these her acquired graces, besides those that were natural unto her, went by little and little kindling the coals of love in Ricaredo's heart; to whom, as to her master's son, she wished all good and happiness, and carried herself towards him with all fair respects.

At first love led him on with only a kind of liking and complacency in beholding the unmatchable beauty of Isabella, and in considering her infinite virtues and graces, and loving her as if she had been his sister, his desires not going beyond their honest and virtuous bounds. But whenas Isabella began to grow towards woman (for then when Ricaredo burned in the flames of love she was twelve years of age) that his former goodwill and that complacency and liking was turned into most fervent desires of enjoying and possessing her; not that he did aspire thereunto by any other

means than by those of being her husband, since that from the incomparable beauty of Isabel (for so did they call her) no other thing could be hoped for, neither would he himself, though he could, have expected that favour from her, because his noble condition and the high esteem wherein he held Isabella would not give the least way or consent that any the least evil thought should take any rooting in his soul.

A thousand times did he determine with himself to manifest the love he bare her to his parents, and again as oft did he not approve this his determination, because he knew that they had dedicated him for to be the husband of a very rich and principal gentlewoman, a Northern damosel, who was likewise, like them, a close and concealed Christian; and it was clear and apparent, as he conceived and said with himself, that they would not be willing to give unto a slave (if this name may be given to Isabella) that which they had treated and in a manner concluded on to give to a gentlewoman; and therefore being much perplexed and pensive, not knowing what course to take for to attain to the end of his good desiré, he passed over such a kind of life as had almost brought him to the point of losing it. But it seeming unto him to be great cowardice and faint-heartedness to suffer himself to die without seeking out some kind of remedy for his grief, he did hearten and encourage himself to open his mind and declare his intent to Isabella.

All they of the house were very sad and heavy and much troubled by reason of Ricaredo his sickness, for he was well beloved of them all; but his father and mother exceeding sorrowful, as well for that they had no other child as also for that his great virtue, valour, and understanding did deserve it. The physicians did not hit right upon his disease, neither durst he, neither would he, discover it unto them. In the end, being fully resolved to break through these difficulties which he imagined with himself, one day amongst the rest that Isabella came in to serve and attend him, seeing her all alone, with a low voice and a troubled tongue he spake unto her after this manner: "Fair Isabella, thy much worth, thy great virtue, and exceeding beauty, not to be equalled by any, have brought me to that extremity wherein you see me; and therefore if you will that I should leave my life in the hands of the greatest extremity that may be imagined, let thy good desire be answerable unto mine, which is no other than to receive thee for my spouse. But this must be carried closely, and kept hid from my parents, of whom I am afraid (who because they know [not] that which I know, thy great deservedness) that they will deny me that good which doth so much concern me. If thou wilt give me thy word to be mine, I shall forthwith pass mine as a true Christian to be thine. And put case that I should never come to enjoy thee, as I will not till that I have the Church's benediction and my parents' goodwill, yet, with this my imagining that thou wilt be assuredly

mine, it will be sufficient to recover me my health and to make me live merrily and contented till that happy and desired time shall come."

Whilst that Ricaredo discoursed thus with her, Isabella stood hearkening unto him with downcast eyes, showing in that her modest and sober look that her honesty did equal her beauty, and her circumspection her great discretion. And seeing that Ricaredo had made an end of speaking and was silent, this honest, fair, and discreet damosel made him this answer: "Since that the rigour or clemency of Heaven (for I know not to which of these extremes I may attribute it) would, Señor Ricaredo, quit me of my parents and give me unto yours, thankfully acknowledging the infinite favours they have done me, I resolved with myself that my will should never be any other than theirs, and therefore without it the inestimable grace and favour which you are willing to do me I should not hold it a happiness but a misery, not a good but a bad fortune. But if, they being made acquainted therewith, I might be so happy as to deserve you, from this day forward I offer unto you that will and consent which they shall give me; and in the meanwhile that this shall be or deferred or not at all effected, let your desires entertain themselves with this, that mine shall be eternal and pure in wishing you all that good which Heaven can give you."

Here did Isabella put a period to her honest and discreet words, and there began Ricaredo's recovery;

and now began to be revived those hopes of his parents which in this his sickness were almost quite dead.

These two modest lovers, with a great deal of courtesy and kindness, took leave each of other; he with tears in his eyes, she with admiration in her soul to see that Ricaredo should render up his love to hers; who being raised from his bed, to his parents' seeming, by miracle, he would not now any longer conceal his thoughts, and therefore one day he manifested them to his mother, telling her in the end of his discourse that if they did not marry him to Isabella, that to deny him her and give him his death it was one and the same thing. With such words and with such endearings Ricaredo did extol to the heavens the virtues of Isabella, that it seemed to his mother that Isabella had not wrought upon her son to win him to be her husband. She did put her son in good hope so to dispose his father that he might like as well thereof as she did; and it so fell out, that repeating to her husband word by word what her son had said unto her, he was easily moved to give way to that which his son so earnestly desired, framing excuses to hinder that marriage which was in a manner agreed upon for the Northern damosel.

When this was in agitation Isabella was fourteen years of age and Ricaredo twenty, and in these their so green and flourishing years their great discretion and known prudence made them ancient.

There were but four days wanting to come, which

being accomplished, Ricaredo his parents were willing that their son should enter into the state of matrimony, holding themselves both wise and happy in having chosen their prisoner to be their daughter, esteeming more the dowry of her virtues than the great store of wealth that was offered with the Northern damosel. The wedding-clothes were already made, their kinsfolk and friends invited thereunto; and there was no other thing wanting save making the Queen acquainted with the marriage, because without her goodwill and consent amongst those of noble blood not any marriage is effected; but they doubted not of her good leave and license, and therefore had so long deferred the craving of it.

I say, then, that all things standing in this estate, when there wanted but four days till that of the wedding, one evening gave disturbance to all this their joy. A servant of the Queen's came and brought a message to Clotaldo, with express command from Her Majesty that the next morning he should bring to her presence his Spanish prisoner that he brought from Cadiz. Clotaldo returned answer that Her Majesty's pleasure should most willingly be obeyed. The gentleman having delivered his message and received his answer, went his way, leaving the hearts of all the whole house full of passion, perturbations, and fears.

"Ay me," said the lady Catalina, "if it be come to the Queen's knowledge that I have bred up this child in the Christian religion, and shall from thence infer that all we of this family are Christians! Besides,

if the Queen shall ask her what she hath learned in eight years since that she was our prisoner, what can the poor harmless soul answer which shall not, notwithstanding all her discretion, condemn us?"

Which Isabella hearing, spake thus unto her: "Let not, dear lady, this fear give you any trouble at all; for my trust is in God that He will put words into my mouth at that instant, out of His divine mercy towards me, that shall not only not condemn you, but that shall much redound to your good."

Ricaredo was much startled therewith, as divining thereby some ill success. Clotaldo sought out means that might give some courage to his great fear, but found none save in the great confidence which he had in God and in the wisdom of Isabella; who earnestly entreated her that by all the ways she possibly could devise she should excuse her condemning of them to be Christians; for though in spirit they were ready to receive martyrdom, yet notwithstanding the flesh was weak, and were loth to drink of that bitter cup.

Not once, but often, Isabella assured them to rest assured that for her cause, or any default of hers, that should not succeed which they feared and suspected; for albeit she then knew not what answer to make to those interrogatories and questions which in such a case as this might be put unto her, yet had she such a lively and assured hope that she should answer thereunto in such sort (as she had at other times told them) that her answers should rather do them good than hurt.

They discoursed that night on many things, especially on this particular, that if the Queen had known that they were Christians she would not have sent them so mild a message, whence they might infer that she was only desirous to see Isabella, whose unequalled beauty and ability had come to her ears, and to those of the Court, as it did to all those of the city. But because they had not before this presented her unto Her Majesty, they found themselves faulty, of which fault they thought good to excuse themselves by saying that from that very instant that she came into his power he had made choice of her, and as it were marked her out for to be the wife of his son Ricaredo; but in this, too, they likewise found themselves faulty for having made such a match without Her Majesty's leave and license; howbeit this fault did not seem unto them worthy of any great punishment. With this they comforted themselves, and agreed amongst themselves, by a joint consent, that Isabella should not go meanly clad to Court, but like a bride, since that she was the spouse of his son Ricaredo.

Being thus resolved, the next day they apparelled Isabella after the Spanish fashion, in a gown of green satin cut upon cloth of gold, embroidered with esses of pearls, wearing a great chain of most rich orient pearls about her neck, having a hat-band of diamonds, and a fan in her hand, after the manner of your Spanish ladies. Her hairs of her head, which were full and long, and of a bright pleasing colour, sown and

interwoven with diamonds and pearls, did serve her instead of a coif. With this most rich dressing, and lively disposition and admirable beauty, she showed herself that day in Mundolin, riding in a fair caroch, carrying along with her, taken by so beautiful a sight, the souls and eyes of as many as looked on her. There were with her in the same caroch Clotaldo and his wife and Ricaredo, and on horseback many noble gentlemen of their kindred and alliance. All this honour Clotaldo was willing to do his prisoner for to oblige the Queen to use her as the spouse of his son.

Being come now to the Court, and brought into the chamber of presence where the Queen was, Isabella entered thereinto, presenting there the fairest show which can fall within the compass of imagination. The room was large and spacious, and the train that came with her had not gone above two steps forward but they stood still, and Isabella, alone by herself, advanced herself towards the state where the Queen sate, and being thus alone, she seemed to appear just like that star or exhalation which by the region of fire is wont to move itself in a clear and quiet night, or like unto a ray or beam of the sun which at the opening of the day discovers itself between two mountains. All this did she seem to be, or rather like a comet which did prognosticate the inflaming and setting on fire many of those souls that were present, which love had throughly heated if not burned with the rays of those resplendent suns of

beautiful Isabella, who, full of humility and courtesy, made her approaches by degrees, addressing herself to kneel down before the Queen, and then, after a short pausing, said thus unto her: "May it please your most excellent Majesty so far forth to honour this your servant that she may kiss your royal hand, so shall I ever hereafter hold myself to be a lady, since that I have been so happy as to come to see your greatness."

The Queen continued looking upon her a good while without speaking one word, it seeming unto her, as she afterwards told a great lady of her bed-chamber, that she had a starrified heaven before her, whose stars were those many pearls and diamonds which Isabella bare about her. Her fair face and eyes were the sun and moon; and take all together in the whole piece, she was a new wonder of beauty. The ladies that attended about the Queen's person wished that they had been all eyes, that there might not remain anything in or about Isabella which they might not behold and view at full. Some commended the quickness of her eyes, some the colour of her face and pureness of complexion, some the properness of her body, and some the sweetness of her speech; and some likewise, who out of mere envy said, "The Spaniard is a very handsome gentlewoman, but her habit and dressing seemeth very strange and out of fashion."

After some little suspension, the Queen causing Isabella to rise up, she said unto her, "Speak, pretty

maid, unto me in Spanish, for I understand it well, and shall take much pleasure therein." And turning herself towards Clotaldo, she said unto him, "Clotaldo, you have done us wrong in keeping this treasure so long concealed from us, but it is such and so rich that it hath moved you to covetousness; you are bound to restore it unto us, for by right it is ours, and properly belongeth unto us."

"Madam," answered Clotaldo, "it is true which your Majesty saith. I confess my fault, if it be a fault to have kept this treasure, that it might be preserved in that perfection as was fitting to appear in your Majesty's presence. And now that it is here before your eye, I thought to have much improved it by craving your Majesty's leave that Isabella might be the spouse of my son Ricaredo, and to give your most excellent Majesty in these two all that I am able to give you."

"Her very name gives us very good content," replied the Queen; "there could nothing have been more wanting save the name of Isabella the Spaniard to take off something from that perfection which is in her. But how is it, Clotaldo, that without our leave you have promised her to your son?"

"It is true, madam," answered Clotaldo, "I have made him a promise of her, but it was upon the confidence that the many and notable services which myself and my ancestors have done this crown might obtain of your Majesty other more difficult favours

than this of your leave, and the rather for that my son is not yet espoused unto her."

"Neither shall he," said the Queen, "marry Isabella till he by himself and in his own person shall deserve her. Our meaning is, that I will not that either your own or your ancestors' services shall any whit benefit him in this particular, but that he in his own person shall dispose himself to serve me, and for to merit for himself, and by his own prowess, this sweet pledge, whom we esteem and reckon of as if she were our own daughter."

Isabella had scarce heard this last word delivered when, humbling herself again on her knees before the Queen, she spake unto her in the Spanish tongue, to this effect: "Disgraces, which bring such graces with them, most noble Queen, are rather to be accounted happiness than misfortunes; and since that your Majesty hath been pleased to grace me with the name of daughter upon so good a pledge, what ill can I fear, or what good may I not hope for?"

Look what Isabella uttered came from her so gracefully and so wittingly that the Queen stood extremely affected towards her, and commanded that she should remain at Court in her service, and recommended her to a great lady, the chiefest amongst those of her bed-chamber, that she might train her up according to the Court fashion.

Ricaredo, who saw that his life was taken away in taking away Isabella, was ready almost to have lost

his wits; and therefore, though overtaken with a troubling and sudden passion of heart, he went and fell upon his knees before the Queen, and said unto her, "That I may serve your Majesty I need not to be incited thereunto by any other rewards than by those which my forefathers and ancestors have gotten by serving their kings; but since that it is your Majesty's pleasure that I should serve you with good desires and pretensions, I would gladly know in what kind and in what employment I may manifest that I comply with that obligation which I owe unto your Majesty, and put myself to that which you shall impose upon me."

"I have two ships royal," answered the Queen, "ready to put forth to sea, whereof I have made General the Baron of Lansac; of one of these I make you Captain, him Admiral and you Vice-admiral. For the blood from whence you come, and runneth in your veins, doth assure me that you will supply the defect of your years; and consider well the favour which we do you, since that therein I give you occasion that, corresponding with that which you are, and doing things answerable to the race from whence you come, by serving your Queen you may show the worth of your noble disposition and of your person, and you shall receive thereby the greatest reward which in your opinion you can wish or desire. I myself will be Isabella's guard, though she give us manifest tokens that her own honesty will be her safest and surest guard. God bless you in your

voyage; and since that you go hence deeply, as I imagine, in love, I promise great matters unto myself of your noble exploits. Happy shall that king that goes to war be who shall have in his army ten thousand soldiers that are in love, for they will live in hope that the reward of their victories shall be the enjoying of their best beloved. Rise up, Ricaredo, and bethink yourself if you will or have anything to say to Isabella, for to-morrow you must be gone."

Ricaredo kissed the Queen's hand, humbly thanking her, and highly esteeming the favour which she did him, and presently went from her to Isabella, and would fain have spoken unto her, but could not, for love and grief had knit such a knot in his throat, and so tied his tongue, that had his life lain upon it he could not utter one word. But the water stood in his eyes, and were so brimful that they ran over and silently trickled down his cheeks, which he thought to dissemble and smother them all that he possibly could, yet notwithstanding could he not hide them from the eyes of the Queen, and therefore she said unto him:—

"Think it no shame, Ricaredo, to weep, neither value yourself the less for having given at this your farewell such tender demonstrations of your heart; for it is one thing to fight with your enemies, and another thing to take your leave of her you love. Isabella, embrace Ricaredo, and give him your benediction, for his excessive sorrow and loathness to leave you doth very well deserve it."

Isabella, who stood amazed and astonished to see Ricaredo's tender-heartedness and how truly he did grieve, and all for her sake, whom she loved as her husband, did not understand what the Queen had commanded her, but began to shed tears, without thinking what she did, and stood so still, and without any motion, that it seemed not to be a living soul but a statua of alabaster that wept.

The affections of these two true and tender lovers made the standers-by to melt likewise into tears. And so Ricaredo, without speaking a word to Isabella, or Isabella to him, they turned each from other; and Clotaldo and they that came with him, doing reverence to the Queen, went out of the presence full of compassion, discontent, and tears.

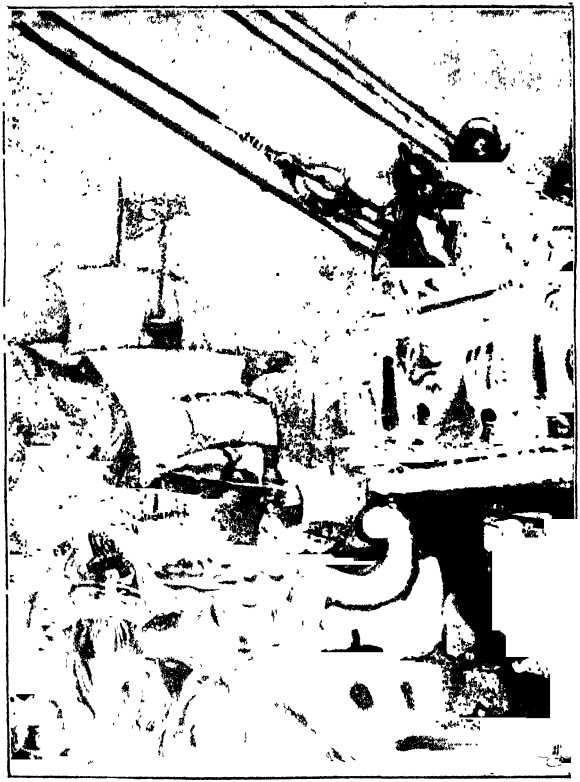
Isabella now remained like a poor orphan coming from the burial of her father and mother, and as full now of fear as before of grief, lest that her new lady to whom she was recommended would make her to change those manners and customs wherein she had been formerly bred up.

In conclusion, there she remained, and within two days after Ricaredo hoised sail and put forth to sea, beaten amongst many other with this thought, that he must do some notable piece of service that might entitle him the deserver of Isabella. But in conclusion he besought Heaven to be propitious unto him that such occasions might be offered unto him wherein by showing himself valiant he might comply

with the duty of a Christian, leaving the Queen satisfied and Isabella deserved.

Six days these two ships sailed with a prosperous wind, shaping their course for the Tercera Islands—a place where never are wanting either ships of Portugal, from the East Indies, or some that come thither from the West Indies. And at six days' end there arose such a cross-wind full in the teeth of them, and continued so long and so strong, that without suffering them to reach the islands, they were enforced to make for Spain; near unto whose coast, at the mouth of the Strait of Gibraltar, they descried three ships, the one a very tall and goodly ship, and the other two much less. Ricaredo's ship made up to that which was admiral, for to know of his General whether or no he would set upon those three ships which they had descried; but before that he came up unto them he might discern that upon the top of the mainmast there was hung out a black streamer, and coming a little nearer, he might hear fifes and trumpets sounding faintly and hoarsely; clear and apparent signs that the General was dead, or some other principal person of the ship. At last, coming within hearing, that they might speak one to another, which they had not done since their first putting forth, they might hear them from out the admiral call out aloud unto them to have the Vice-admiral Ricaredo to come aboard their ship, because the General the night before died of an apoplexy.

All upon this news were very sad save Ricaredo,



THEY DESCRIED THREE SHIPS.

who was inwardly glad, not for the loss of his General, but to see that he was left at liberty, and might freely command both ships; for so was it ordered by the Queen, that the General miscarrying, Ricaredo should succeed in his room; who presently went aboard the admiral, where he found some that mourned for their dead General, and others that rejoiced with him that was now living. In a word, both the one and the other presently yielded him obedience, and with short ceremonies cried him up for their General; two of those three ships which they had discovered not giving leave for greater, which going aloof from the great ship made up to the two ships. They straight knew them to be galleys, and Turkish galleys, by the half-moons which they bare in their flags, which gave Ricaredo great contentment, it seeming unto him that that prize, if Heaven should grant it him, would be of great benefit.

The Turkish galleys came to know the Northern ships, who did not carry the arms of the Island in their flags, but of Spain, for to deceive those that should chance to descry them, and might take them to be ships of piracy. The Turks thought they had been ships that had come from the Indies, wasted and spent with their long voyage, and that they would quickly yield and be taken; whereupon they came encroaching by little and little upon them, thinking presently to board them, and Ricaredo suffered them to come nearer and nearer unto him, till he had them in command of his ordnance, and then let fly at them,

and giving them a broadside, discharged so luckily, and with such fury, that he shot one of the galleys through and through, so that one half of it lay all open and naked, which forced them to fly, and make the best shift they could for to escape boarding. The other galley seeing its fellow's ill success, made away in all haste, and strove to put herself under the side of the great ship; but Ricaredo, who had ships that were light laden, and were quick and nimble, and such excellent sailers that they would turn and wind and come off and on as if they had been plied with oars, commanded them to charge the ordnance anew, chasing them even to the ship, showering upon them a world of shot. They of the opened galley, as soon as they came to the ship, forsook their galley, and with all possible haste endeavoured to get into the ship; which being perceived by Ricaredo, and that the sound galley employed itself in relieving the other, he sets upon her with both his ships, and without giving her leave to tack about, or to make any use of her oars, he did put her to that strait and exigent that the Turks likewise that were in her were forced to flee for refuge to the ship, not with any hope to defend themselves therein, or to stand it out in fight, but for to escape for the present with their lives. The Christians wherewith those galleys were manned, tearing up their banks and breaking their chains, intermingled with the Turks, sought to recover their ship; and as they were clambering up by the side of her, with musket shot from the ships they went

shooting at them as at a mark; but Ricaredo gave order that they should shoot only at the Turks, and spare the Christians. Thus were all the Turks almost slain; and they who entered the ship with the Christians, for they were mingled one amongst another, making use of their weapons, were cut in pieces; for the force of the valiant when they begin to fall must yield to the weakness of those that are rising. And therefore the Christians, taking heart, laid about them with such courage and mettle that they did wonders for the working of their liberty, thinking all this while that those Northern ships were Spanish.

In conclusion, the Christians having in a manner cut all the Turks' throats, some Spaniards showed themselves upon the deck, and called out aloud unto those whom they supposed to be Spaniards that they would come aboard them, and enjoy the reward of their victory. Ricaredo asked them in Spanish what ship that was; they told him that she was a Portugal come from the East Indies laden with spices and as many pearls and diamonds as were worth a million, and that by a storm they were driven upon that coast, all rent and torn, and without any ordnance, for the foulness of the weather and high working of the sea enforced them to throw it overboard; that their men were most of them sick, and almost dead of thirst and hunger; and that those two galleys which were belonging to the pirate Arpantemuam had taken her but the day before, without making any defence at all; and

that, as it was told them, because they were not able to carry so great a quantity of riches in those two small vessels, they towed her along, with purpose to put her into the river of Larache, which was near thereunto.

Ricaredo returned them answer that if they conceived that those his two ships were Spanish they were deceived, for they were nothing less but ships belonging to the Queen of the Northern Island; which news gave those that heard it occasion of fear and sorrow, imagining, and not without reason, that they were fallen out of one net into another. But Ricaredo old them that they should receive no harm, and that they should rest assured of their liberty, on condition that they should not put themselves upon their defence. "Nor is it possible for us," replied they, "so to do; for, as we formerly told you, this ship hath no ordnance, nor we any offensive arms; and therefore we must of force, whether we will or no, have recourse to the gentle and noble disposition of your General, and the liberality and courtesy which he shall use towards us, since that it is meet and just that he who hath freed us from the insufferable captivity of the Turks should reap the reward and benefit thereof, and shall be famoused of all those to whose ears the news shall come of this memorable victory and of his kind usage towards them."

These words of the Spaniard did not sound ill in Ricaredo's ears, and therefore calling those of his ship to a council, he demanded of them how he might send

all the Christians to Spain, without putting themselves in danger of any sinister success, if being so many as they were they should take courage unto them for to rise up against them. Some were of opinion that he should pass them one by one to his own ship, and clapping them under hatches, kill them man after man, and so they might easily and without any noise kill them all, and carry the great ship along with them to Mundolin without any further fear or care-taking. But to this Ricaredo thus replied: "Since that God hath done us this so great a favour in giving us such great riches, I will not requite Him with a cruel and unthankful mind, nor is it meet that that which I may remedy by industry I should remedy it by the sword; and therefore I, for my part, am of opinion that no Christian should die the death; not because I wish them so well, but because I wish well to myself, and would that this day's noble action, neither to me nor to you, should mingle the name of valiant with the surname of cruel, for cruelty did never sort well with valour. That which is to be done is this: that all the ordnance of one of these our ships be put into the great Portugal ship, without leaving the ship any arms, or any other thing, save sufficient victual, and so manning that ship with our men, we will carry it home, and the Spaniards go in the other to Spain."

None durst contradict that which Ricaredo had propounded, and some held him to be valiant, magnanimous, and of good understanding and judgment,

and others in their hearts to be more courteous than he ought to have been.

Ricaredo then having resolved on this course, he put fifty musketeers into the Portugal ship all ready fitted and furnished, their pieces charged with shot, and their matches burning in their cocks. He found in the ship well near three hundred persons, with those that had escaped out of the galleys. He presently called for their cocket, or bill of lading, and the same person who at first spake to him from the deck made him answer that the Turkish pirate had already taken their cocket from them, and that it was drowned with him. He did instantly put his pulley in order, and bringing his lesser vessel and lashing it close to the side of the great ship, with wonderful celerity and with the help of strong ropes they hoised all their ordnance with their carriages out of the lesser into the greater ship.

This being done, he forthwith made a short speech to the Christians. He commanded them to go into the ship that was now disencumbered, where they should find good store of victual for more than a month, and more mouths than they had. And as they went embarking themselves, he gave to every one of them four Spanish pistolets, which he caused to be brought from his own ship, for to relieve in part their necessity when they came on land; which was so near that from thence they might ken the high mountains of Avila and Calpe.

All of them gave him infinite thanks for the favour

he had done them; and the last that went to embark himself was he who had been the mouth of the rest, who said unto Ricaredo, "Most valiant sir, I should hold it a happiness for me, amidst these my misfortunes, and the greater of the two, that you would rather carry me along with you to Mundolin than send me into Spain; for albeit that it be my country, and that it is not above six days since I left it, yet shall I not find anything therein which will not minister occasions unto me of reviving my former sorrows and solitudes. I would have you to know, noble sir, that in the loss of Cadiz, which is now some fifteen years since, I lost a daughter, which some of the conquerors carried away into their own country, and with her I lost the comfort of my old age, and the light of mine eyes, which since they might not see her have never seen that thing which could be pleasing unto them. The great discontentment wherein her loss left me, together with that of my wealth, which likewise was taken from me, brought me to that low ebb that I neither would nor could any more exercise the trade of merchandise, whose great dealings in that kind made me in the opinion of the world held to be the richest merchant in all that city; and indeed so I was, for besides my credit, which would pass for many hundred thousands of crowns, the wealth that I had within the doors of mine own house was more than fifty thousand ducats, all which I lost, yet had I lost nothing so as I had not lost my daughter. After this general misfortune, and so particularly mine,

necessity, the more to vex me, set upon me, never ceasing to give me over till such time as not being able any longer to resist her, my wife and I (which is that sorrowful woman that sits there) resolved to go for the Indies, the common refuge of poor gentlemen; and having embarked ourselves but six days since in a ship of advice, we had no sooner put out of Cadiz but that those two vessels of the pirates took our ship, and we became their slaves; whereupon our misery was renewed, and our misfortune confirmed, and it had been greater had not the pirates taken that ship of Portugal, who entertained them so long, till that succeeded which you have seen."

Ricaredo then asked him what was his daughter's name? He answered, Isabella.

With this Ricaredo ceased to be confirmed further in that which before he suspected, which was that he who recounted this unto him was his beloved Isabella's father, and without giving him any tidings of her, he told him that very willingly he would carry him and his wife to Mundolin, where happily they might hear some news of that which they so much desired. He made them presently go aboard his own ship, leaving mariners and soldiers sufficient in that of Portugal.

That night they hoised sail and set themselves to get off from the coast of Spain; and for that in the ship wherein were the freed captives there were likewise twenty Turks, whom Ricaredo had also set at liberty, for to show that more out of his own noble

disposition and generous mind he had dealt so graciously with them, than enforced by that love which he bare to the Christians, he entreated the Spaniards at their parting that upon the first occasion that should offer itself they should set the Turks at liberty, wherein they should show themselves thankful unto him.

The wind, which gave good tokens of being large and prosperous, began to be very much calmer, which calm did stir up a great tempest of fear in the mariners and soldiers, who blamed Ricaredo and his bounty, not sticking to tell him that they whom he had freed might give advice of their success in Spain, and that if happily they should have their galleons lying there in the haven, they might put forth to sea in search of them, and so put them to a narrow strait and in danger of losing, together with their lives, all that treasure which they had got.

Ricaredo knew very well that they had reason on their side, but overcoming all of them with good words, he made them quiet; but that which did most quiet them was the wind, which returned again to refresh itself in such sort, that having as fair a gale as could blow in the sky, they clapped on all their sails, and without having need to strike any one of them, or but in the least manner to restrain them, within nine days they came within sight of Mundolin; and when they were returned home thus victorious, there were thirty wanting of those that went that voyage.

Ricaredo would not enter the river with tokens of

joy, by reason of the death of his General, and therefore mixed his joyful with sorrowful signs, one while the trumpets sounding loud and shrill, and another while low and hoarse; one while the drums did beat lively and the flutes go merrily, and another while dead and softly, answering each other with mournful and lamentable notes. On one of the cages of the ship hung the contrary way a flag embroidered with half-moons, and on another a long streamer of black taffeta, whose points did [touch] the water.

In conclusion, with these and the like contrary extremes, they entered the river with their own ship, because the other drew so much water that the river could not bear her, and therefore lay at anchor in the sea.

These such contrary signs and tokens held a world of people in suspense, who beheld them from each side of the shore. They knew very well by some arms and coats in their colours that that lesser ship was the admiral wherein the Lord of Lansac went; but they could not guess how that other ship should come to be changed for that great vast ship which lay at sea. But they were quickly put out of this doubt by Ricaredo's leaping out of his boat on shore in rich and resplendent arms like a soldier; who afoot, without staying for any other company, attended only with the innumerable vulgar that followed him, he went directly to the Court, where the Queen being in a gallery, stood expecting the news should be brought her of her ships.

There was, besides many other ladies with the Queen, Isabella, apparelled after the Island fashion, though with a little touch of the Spanish. Before that Ricaredo came, there came another, who told the Queen that Ricaredo was come. Isabella hearing the name of Ricaredo, began to change colour, and seemed to be somewhat troubled, and in that very instant did fear and hope both the evil and good success of his coming.

Ricaredo was tall of stature, a gentleman, and well proportioned, and for that he came armed, with his gorget, corselet, and powderns all Milan work, richly gilded and engraven, it became him extremely well, and did please the eyes of the beholders. He had no casque on his head, but a broad-brimmed hat of a lion colour, with a great large feather, diversified with a few different colours, a broad short sword by his side, a very rich girdle and hangers, and his breeches somewhat large and full, like unto those of the Swizzers.

Being thus accoutred, what with the goodliness of his presence and stateliness of his gait, some were so taken therewith that they compared him to Mars, the god of war; and others, taken with the beautifulness of his countenance, compared him to Venus, who for to put a jest upon Mars had put this disguise upon him. In conclusion, he came before the Queen, and humbling himself on his knee, he said unto her: —

"Most renowned and redoubted Sovereign, in the strength of your good fortune, and in the consecution of my desire, after that our General, the Lord of

Lansac, was dead of an apoplexy, I succeeding in his place, thanks be rendered therefor to your Majesty, I lighted by chance on two Turkish galleys, which went towing away that great ship which I have now brought home, and lies not far off, safe in the road. I did set upon them; your soldiers fought, as they always use to do, very manfully. We sunk both the Turkish vessels, and in one of ours I gave, in your Majesty's royal name, liberty to the Christians which escaped out of the hands of the Turks. Only I brought along with me one man and a woman, both Spaniards, who out of their own liking and election were wonderfully desirous to come with me into our Island, that they might see the greatness of your Majesty's person and court. That ship which is now yours is a Portugal, one of those great carracks which come from the East Indies, the which by a storm came to fall into the power of the Turks, who with little trouble, or, to say better, none at all, made her to yield herself unto them; and as I am informed by some of those Portugals that came in her, she is worth above a million in gold and spice, and other rich merchandise of pearls and diamonds which are in her, whereof nothing hath hitherto been touched, neither did the Turks come to finger anything therein, because Heaven hath dedicated it wholly unto you, and I have commanded it to be kept and reserved whole and entire for your Majesty; which with one jewel only that your Majesty shall be pleased to bestow upon me, I shall remain indebted for ten such other ships, which

jewel your Majesty hath already promised me, which is my good Isabella. With her I shall rest rich and rewarded, not only for this service that I have done your Majesty, but for many other which I mean to do, for to pay some part of that great if not infinite worth which in this jewel your Majesty offereth me."

"Arise, Ricaredo," replied the Queen, "and believe me, that if I should upon a price give you Isabella according to that value I esteem her at, you would never be able to pay it, neither with that which you have brought home in this ship nor with all that treasure which remaineth in the Indies. Well, I will give her you, because I made you a promise of her, and because she is worthy of you, and you of her; your valour only doth deserve her. And if you have kept those jewels of the ship for me, I have likewise kept this your jewel for you; and albeit it may seem unto you that I have not done any great matter for you in returning you that which is your own, yet I know that I do you an especial favour therein, for those pledges that are bought by our desires, and have their estimation and value in the soul of the buyer, they are worth a world, there being no price that can countervail it. Isabella is yours, there she is; and when you will yourself, you may take possession of her, and I believe with her good liking and content, for she is discreet, and knows well how to weigh the friendship which you do her, for I will not style it by the name of favour but friendship; for I will take that name only upon me of doing favours. Go, and take your ease, and come and wait

upon us to-morrow, and then will I more particularly hear you relate unto us what you did in this voyage, and how valiantly you behaved yourself; and bring those two with you who you say were so willing to come and see us, that we may thank them for their love."

Ricaredo thanked Her Majesty for the many favours she had done him, and then the Queen presently left the gallery and retired herself. And the ladies came round about Ricaredo, and one of them, which held great love and friendship with Isabella, called the lady Tansi, accounted the discreetest, the wittiest, and pleasantest amongst them, said unto Ricaredo, "What means this, Ricaredo? what arms are these? Did you happily imagine that you came to fight with your enemies? Believe me, we all here are your friends, unless it be Isabella, who for that she is a Spaniard is bound not to bear you any goodwill."

"Sure, my lady Tansi, she bears me some; for since that she hath me in her remembrance," said Ricaredo, "I know that her goodwill is towards me; for the foulness of being unthankful cannot have the least footing in her so great worth, understanding, and incomparable beauty."

Whereunto Isabella replied, "Señor Ricaredo, since that I am to be yours, it is in your power to take all satisfaction whatsoever you will of me, that I may make you some small requital of those undeserved praises which you have given me, and of those further favours which you intend to do me."

These and other the like honest discoursings Ricaredo passed with Isabella and with the rest of the ladies, amongst which there was a pretty little damosel, young both in growth and years, who did nothing but gaze upon Ricaredo all the while he was there. She lifted up his bases to see if he had anything under them; she tampered with his sword, and in a childish simplicity would make his glittering armour her looking-glass, coming very near, thinking to see her face in them. And when she went away from him, turning herself to the ladies, she said, "Now, ladies, I assure you I imagine that war is a most beautiful thing, since that even amongst women armed men look lovely."

"And how can they otherwise choose?" replied the lady Tansi; "if not, look upon Ricaredo, who looks like the sun come down from heaven on earth, and in that habit goes walking up and down amongst us."

They all of them laughed at the little maid's simplicity, and no less at the ridiculous rodomontado of the lady Tansi; and some murmurers were not wanting who held it an impertinency that Ricaredo should come armed to Court, though other some sought as much to excuse him, saying that as a soldier he might do it for to show his bravery and gallantry.

Ricaredo was by his parents, friends, kinsfolk, and acquaintance received with lively expressions of singular love and affection; and that night there were made general bonfires throughout Mundolin, and

other public tokens of their joy. The father and mother of Isabella were already in Clotaldo's house, whom Ricaredo had acquainted who they were, but entreated his parents that they might not have any the least notice given them of Isabella till that he himself should give it them; the like advice was given to all the servants of the house.

That very night, accompanied with many boats, barges, and barks, and with no fewer eyes to look on them, the great ship began to discharge her lading, which in eight days could not be disburthened of her pepper, and other rich merchandise which she had in her bulk. The next day after Ricaredo went to Court, carrying with him the father and mother of Isabella, both of them being newly clad after the fashion of Mundolin, telling them that the Queen desired to see them.

They came all of them where the Queen was sitting amidst her ladies expecting Ricaredo, whom she was willing to grace and favour by placing Isabella next to her, having on the same attire and dressing which she wore when she came first to the Court, appearing therein no less beautiful now than she did then. The parents of Isabella were strucken with admiration and wonder to see so much greatness and bravery met together. They settled their eyes on Isabella, but did not know her, though their hearts, presagers of that good which was so near them, began to leap in their bosoms; not out of any sudden passion that might cause sorrow or grief in them, but out of I know not

what pleasure and contentment, which they could not hit upon to understand aright.

The Queen would not suffer Ricaredo to continue kneeling before her, but made him rise, and willed him to sit down in a velvet chair, which was by her appointment set there for that purpose—an unusual favour, considering the stately condition of the Queen. And one whispered in another's ear, "Ricaredo sits not on the chair which was brought him, but on the pepper which he brought in." Another says unto him that stood by him, "Now is that old proverb verified, 'Que dadivas quebrantan peñas—that gifts will break through stone walls'; for those that Ricaredo hath given Her Majesty hath softened and mollified our Queen's hard heart." Another tells his next fellow, "Now that he is well seated, more hands than two must go to it to heave him out."

In conclusion, from that grace and honour which the Queen was pleased to do Ricaredo, envy took occasion to grow in many of those courtiers' breasts, who were eye-witnesses of this Her Majesty's extraordinary favour extended towards him; for there is not that favour which a prince confers on his favourite which is not a spear that pierceth the heart of the envious.

The Queen was desirous to know from Ricaredo, point by point, how that fight passed with the Turkish pirates' galleys; he recounted it anew, attributing the victory to God and the valour of his soldiers, endearing the services of them all jointly, and particularising the valiant acts of some of them, who had put them-

selves most forward, and done Her Majesty very notable service; whereby he obliged the Queen to do all of them favours, and in particular those particular persons.

And when he began to speak of the liberty which in Her Majesty's name he had given the Turks and Christians, he said unto her, "That woman and that man who stand there" (pointing to Isabella's parents) "are they whom yesterday I told your Majesty, who out of the great desire which they had to see your greatness and magnificence did so earnestly entreat me that I would bring them along with me. They are of Cadiz, and by that which they have told me, and by that likewise which I have seen and observed in them, I know that they are of especial rank and worth."

The Queen commanded them that they should draw near unto her. Isabella lifted up her eyes that she might see these who said they were Spaniards, and more particularly of Cadiz, out of a desire that she had to learn if happily they knew her parents. And just as Isabella lifted up her eyes, her mother fixed hers upon her, and stood still a while, that she might view and behold her the more attentively; and on the other side there began to be awakened in Isabella's memory some certain confused notions which gave her to understand that heretofore she had seen that woman which stood before her. Her father was in the like confusion, without daring to determine to give credit to that truth which his eyes represented unto him.

Ricaredo was very attentive to see and observe the affections and motions of these three doubtful and perplexed souls, which were so confounded and amazed between the yea and nay of knowing each other. The Queen took notice of both their suspensions, as also of Isabella's distractions, by her interwhile sweatings, by her changing colour, and by her lifting up her hand to order and compose her hair.

Isabella thus troubled, not knowing well what to think of it, did earnestly wish that she would speak whom she imagined might be her mother, for peradventure her ears would put her out of that doubt whereinto her eyes had put her. The Queen willed Isabella that she should speak Spanish to that woman and that man, and they should tell her what was the cause that moved them not to accept and enjoy that their liberty which Ricaredo had given them, being that liberty is a thing above all other the dearest and best beloved, not only of reasonable creatures, but of those that want it. All this Isabella demanded of her mother, who, without returning her any one word, suddenly and half stumbling for haste, came unto Isabella, and without regarding respect, fear, or the courtiers looking on her, with her hand she lifted up Isabella's right ear, and having there discovered a black mole, which mark confirmed her suspicion, and plainly perceiving that it was her daughter Isabella, she could no longer contain herself, but embracing her, cried out aloud, saying, "O daughter of my heart! O dear pledge of my soul!" and not being

able to utter a word more, her speech failing, she fainted and fell into a swound in Isabella's arms.

Her father, no less tender than prudent, gave manifest signs how sensible he was of all this, but with no other words than a silent shedding of tears, which softly trickling down bedewed both his cheeks and beard. Isabella laid her face to that of her mother, and turning her eyes towards her father, in such a kind of manner looked on him that thereby she gave him to understand the pleasure and contentment her soul took in seeing them there.

The Queen wondering at this so rare and strange an accident, said to Ricaredo, "I conceive, Ricaredo, that this interview was thus preordered in your discretion; but I must tell you I know not whether you did well in so doing, for we see by experience that a sudden joy as soon kills as a sudden sorrow."

And having said this, she turned herself to Isabella, and took her apart from her mother, who having a little water sprinkled in her face, came again to herself, and calling her wits a little better about her, humbling herself on her knees before the Queen, she said unto her, "I beseech your Majesty to pardon my boldness, for it is no marvel that I should forget myself and lose my senses with the overmuch joy I have received in the finding out this my beloved pledge."

The Queen made answer that she had a great deal of reason on her side (making use of an interpreter that she might the better understand her).

Isabella came in this manner, as I told you before, to the knowledge of her parents, and her parents of her; whom the Queen commanded to reside in the Court, to the end that they might with the better leisure both see and talk with their daughter, and rejoice and make merry with her. Wherewith Ricaredo was wonderful well pleased, and craved anew of the Queen that she would be pleased to make good her promise by bestowing Isabella upon him, in case he did deserve her; and if not, he humbly besought Her Majesty that she would be pleased presently to put him upon some other employment that might make himself worthy of obtaining that which he so earnestly desired.

The Queen understood very well that Ricaredo rested well satisfied of himself and of his great valour, insomuch that there needed not any new proofs for to qualify him; and therefore told him that four days from that present being fully ended, she would deliver Isabella unto him, doing both of them all the grace and honour she possibly could. Upon this answer Ricaredo took his leave, being the most joyful and most contented man in the world, transported with that near hope which he now had of having Isabella in his power without any fear of losing her, which is the last and utmost desire of lovers.

Time ran, but not with that light and nimble foot as he wished; for they who live by the hope of promise to come do evermore imagine that time doth not fly with wings swift enough, but that he hath lead

tied to his heels, and treads the steps of slothfulness itself.

Well, at last came that desired day, not wherein Ricaredo thought to put an end to his desires, but to find in Isabella new graces which might move him to love her the more, if more he could, than he did already. But in that short time whenas he thought the ship of his good fortune sailed with a prosperous wind towards the desired port, a contrary chance and cross accident raised up in this calm sea such a tempestuous storm that he feared a thousand times to see it sunk.

The case, then, is this. The chief bed-chamber lady to the Queen, to whose charge Isabella was committed, had a son of the age of twenty-two years, called the Earl of Arnesto. The greatness of his estate, the nobleness of his blood, and the great favour which his mother held with the Queen, made him not only do those things which did not become him, and to break out into excesses, but also made him arrogant, proud, haughty, and confident of himself.

This Arnesto, then, was enamoured of Isabella, and so inflamedly that his very soul did burn in the sparkling light of Isabella's eyes; and albeit in that time that Ricaredo was absent he had by some signs discovered his desires, yet was he never admitted by Isabella, or received any the least encouragement; and howbeit that repugnancy and disdains in love's infancy are wont to make lovers to desist from their enterprise, yet in Arnesto the many and known disdains which Isabella showed him wrought the clean

contrary, for he was set on fire with his own jealousies, and burned with desire to attempt her honesty; and for that he saw that Ricaredo in the Queen's opinion had deserved Isabella, and that within so little a while she was to be given unto him for wife, he was ready to run into despair, and to offer violence to himself; but before that he would go about to use so infamous and cowardly a remedy, he brake with his mother, entreating her that she would speak unto the Queen to give him Isabella to be his wife, which if she did not bring to pass, that he would then have her to know, and assuredly believe, that death stood knocking at the doors of his life.

The mother wondered to hear such words fall from her son, and for that she knew the roughness of his harsh nature and headstrong condition, and the fastness wherewith these desires did cleave unto his soul, she was afraid that this his love would end in some sinister success and unhappy issue, yet notwithstanding, as a mother (to whom it is natural to desire and procure the good of her children), she promised to prefer his pretension to the Queen, though not with any hope to obtain such an impossibility of her as the breaking of her princely word, but that she might not omit to try in so desperate a case the utmost remedy.

And Isabella being that morning apparelled, by order from the Queen, so richly that my pen dares not presume to deliver the manner thereof unto you, and the Queen herself having put a chain of pearl

about her neck, the best that was brought home by Ricaredo in the ship, valued at twenty thousand ducats, and a diamond ring on her finger worth six thousand or thereabouts, and the ladies being assembled and met together for to celebrate the approaching feast of this glorious wedding, came in the chief bed-chamber woman to the Queen, and besought her on her knees that she would be pleased to suspend Isabella's espousals two days more; for with this favour only which Her Majesty should do her she should hold herself well satisfied and recompensed for all whatsoever she deserved or hoped for her service.

The Queen would first know of her why she did so earnestly desire this suspension, which went so directly against her word which she had given to Ricaredo. But that lady would not render her the reason until that she had granted her request, and that then she would make it known unto her. The Queen longed to know the cause of that her demand; and therefore, after that the lady had obtained that which she much desired, she recounted to Her Majesty the love that her son bare to Isabella, and how that she feared that if she were not given him to wife he will either grow desperate to his utter undoing, or do some scandalous act or other; and that whereas she had craved those two days of delaying the business, it was only to this end and purpose, that Her Majesty might have time to think upon some course, what might in Her Majesty's wisdom be most fit and convenient for her son's good.

The Queen made answer that if she had not passed unto her her royal word she would easily have found a way to get out of that labyrinth, but that she would neither break her promise with her nor yet defraud Ricaredo of his hopes for all the interest of the world.

This answer the lady of the bed-chamber gave her son, who flying instantly from his mother, frying in the flames of love and jealousy, armed himself at all points, and being mounted upon a fair and strong-limbed horse, presented himself before the house of Clotaldo, and with a loud voice requested that Ricaredo would come to the window that he might speak a word with him; who at that instant was all in his gallantry, like a bridegroom, and was even upon the point of going to Court with such company as such a solemnity required; but having heard a loud call, and being told who he was that called unto him, and in what kind of fashion he came, being somewhat troubled with it, he came to the window; whom as soon as Arnesto saw, he said unto him, "Ricaredo, hearken well unto that which I shall now tell thee. My mistress the Queen commanded thee to go forth in her service and to do such noble exploits as should make thee worthy of deserving the not-to-be-paralleled, incomparable Isabella. Thou didst go, and returnedst with thy ships laden with gold, wherewith thou thinkst that thou hast bought and deserved Isabella; and albeit the Queen my mistress hath promised her unto thee, it was as being

persuaded that there was not any one in Court that hath done her better service, nor any that with better title may deserve Isabella, and herein it may very well be that she was deceived; and therefore leaning to this opinion, which I hold for an approved truth, I tell thee that thou hast neither done such things as may make thee to deserve Isabella, neither canst thou do any which may be able to raise thee to so great a height of happiness; and therefore in regard that thou nor dost nor canst deserve her, if thou shalt avouch the contrary, I challenge thee the field, and defy thee to the death."

And here the Earl ended his speech, and Ricaredo made answer thereunto after this manner: "This challenge, my lord, doth in no manner of wise concern me, for I ingeniously confess that I not only not deserve Isabella, but that there is not that man now living in the world that doth deserve her. So that I confessing that to be true which you say, this your challenge no way toucheth me, yet notwithstanding I accept of it for that your insolency and indiscretion which you have shown in this your challenging of me."

And with this he withdrew himself from the window, and called in all haste for his arms. This unexpected cross accident much troubled his parents, and all those that were come to Clotaldo's house to accompany Ricaredo to the Court.

Amongst those many that had seen the Earl Arnesto armed, and had heard the challenge he had

made, there were not some wanting who acquainted the Queen therewith, who commanded the captain of her guard that he should go presently and apprehend the Earl. The captain made such good haste that he came just in the very nick whenas Ricaredo was going out of his house armed with those arms wherein he disembarked, being mounted on a goodly horse.

When the Earl saw the captain of the guard, he forthwith imagined the cause of his coming, and determined (if possibly he could avoid it) not to be apprehended; and speaking aloud to Ricaredo, said, "Thou now seest, Ricaredo, the impediment which hinders us from deciding this quarrel. If, notwithstanding this interruption, thou shalt have a mind to chastise me, thou wilt seek after me, and I shall have the like mind to chastise thee, and seek likewise after thee, and since two that seek after each other are easily found, let the execution of our desires surcease for the present."

"Content," replied Ricaredo.

By this time the captain was come in with all the guard, and told the Earl that he must yield himself his prisoner, for in Her Majesty's name he was to apprehend him. The Earl yielded himself unto him, and told the captain that he submitted himself to Her Majesty's command, but with this condition, that he should not carry him to any other place save the Queen's presence.

The captain remained therewith satisfied, and

carrying him in the midst of the guard, brought him to Court before the Queen, who had already been informed by his mother of the great love which her son bare to Isabella, and with tears besought Her Majesty that she would pardon the Earl, who being a young man, and deeply in love, was liable to far greater errors. Arnesto was brought before the Queen, who, without entertaining any speech with him, commanded his sword to be taken from him, and afterwards sent him to prison.

All these things tormented the heart of Isabella, as likewise of her parents, who so suddenly saw the sea of their quietness troubled.

The lady of the bed-chamber, Arnesto's mother, advised the Queen that for to remove that mischief betwixt her house and that of Ricaredo, that the cause thereof might be taken away, which was Isabella, by sending her into Spain, and so those effects would cease which now were to be feared.

Whereunto the Queen answered, that for the sending of her into Spain she should treat no more on that point, because her fair presence and her many graces and virtues gave her great content, and that doubtless, if not that very day, the next following without all fail she would marry her to Ricaredo, according to the promise she had made him.

With this resolution of the Queen's, Arnesto's mother was so disheartened and discomforted that she replied not so much as one word; and approving that for good which she had already forecasted in her

mind, that there was no other way, no other means in the world, for the mollifying of that rigorous condition of her son, nor for the reducing of Ricaredo to terms of peace, save by taking away of Isabella, she determined to put in practice one of the greatest cruelties that could ever enter into the thought of any noblewoman, and especially so principal a one as she was; and this her determination was, to make away Isabella by poison; and because it is commonly the condition of women to be speedy and resolute in what they go about, that very evening she gave Isabella poison in a certain conserve, forcing her in a manner to take it, telling her that it was excellent good against those passions of the heart wherewith she seemed to be troubled.

Having satisfied her importunity, within a little while after that Isabella had taken it, her tongue and her throat began to swell, and her lips to grow black, her voice hoarse, her eyes troubled, and her stomach and bowels tormented with gripings—all manifest signs and tokens that she was poisoned.

The ladies came to the Queen, acquainting Her Majesty how it was with her, and certifying her how that the lady of her bed-chamber who had the charge of Isabella had done her this ill office. There needed not much pressing to induce the Queen to believe that it was true, and therefore went presently to see Isabella, who was almost breathing her last.

The Queen commanded her physicians should be sent for in all haste, and in the meanwhile, before

they came, she caused a quantity of the powder of unicorn's-horn to be given her, and some other preservatives against poison, which great princes use always to have ready at hand, upon the like cases of necessity. The physicians came and applied their best remedies, and besought the Queen that she would be pleased to cause that lady of her bed-chamber to make known unto them what kind of poison that was which she had given her, for it was not to be doubted that any other person but herself had poisoned her. She did discover what she had given her, and having notice of it, the physicians applied so many and such effectual remedies, that by them and God's helping hand Isabella remained with life, or at least in good hope of having it.

The Queen commanded her bed-chamber woman to be apprehended and to be locked up in a strait and narrow lodging in her Court, with intention to punish her according to the nature and quality of this her foul offence, although that she sought to excuse herself by saying that in killing Isabella she did sacrifice to the gods by ridding the earth of a Christian, and together with her, removing the occasion of her son's further quarrels.

This sad news being brought to Ricaredo made him almost out of his wits; such were the things he did, and such were the complaints he made.

In conclusion, Isabella did not lose her life, yet the poison had gotten that power over her that she lost the hair of her head and of her eyebrows, her

face was strangely puffed up, the grain of her skin spoiled, her complexion marred, her whole body mightily swollen, and her eyes distilling watery humours. In a word, she was grown so foul and ill-favoured, that she who till then seemed to be a miracle of beauty did now seem to be a monster of ugliness; and they who knew her before held it the greater misfortune of the two that she remained in this evil plight than if she had died of the poison. Notwithstanding all this, Ricaredo sued anew unto the Queen for her, and besought Her Majesty that she would give him leave to carry her home to his house, because the love which he bare her passed from his body to his soul; yet comforted himself with this, that though Isabella had lost her beauty, yet could she not lose her infinite virtues.

"Thou sayest true," replied the Queen; "go, take her home with thee, Ricaredo, and make account that thou carriest with thee a most rich jewel in a coarse case. I would have given her as fair to thee as thou deliveredst her unto me; but since this is not possible, forgive me that fault; happily the chastisement which I shall give to the committers of this foul offence shall in part satisfy thy desire of revenge."

Many things did Ricaredo say unto the Queen, seeking to excuse the lady of her bed-chamber, beseeching Her Majesty to pardon her, since that the reasons she alleged in her excuse were sufficient for to move her to forgive her greater excesses than these.

In conclusion, Isabella and her parents were delivered unto him, and Ricaredo carried them home, I mean to his father's house. To those rich pearls and that diamond the Queen added other jewels and other changes of raiment, which were such and so costly that they discovered the great love which she bare to Isabella, who remained for the space of two months without being able to be reduced to her former beauty; but the time being past, her skin began to peel and fall away, and a fair and smooth grain of skin to disclose itself.

In this interim, Ricaredo's parents presuming that it was not possible that Isabella should become the same woman which heretofore she was, resolved to send for that Northern damosel with whom, before that ever they treated with Isabella, Ricaredo (by agreement) was to marry; and all this they did without his knowledge, not doubting but that the present beauty of this new bride would blot out of his son's remembrance that of Isabella, which was now past; whom they purposed to send into Spain, together with her father and mother, giving them such store of wealth and riches as should fully recompense their former received losses.

There passed not above a month and a half whenas, without Ricaredo's privity, the new spouse entered within his father's doors, accompanied like herself, very well, and so fair and beautiful a creature, that next to Isabella, when she was in her prime, there was not the like unto her in all Mundolin.

Ricaredo was mightily startled with the sudden and unexpected sight of the damosel, and feared lest the suddenness of her coming would put Isabella into some passion, and make an end of her life; and therefore, for to remove this fear, he went to the bed's side where Isabella lay, and finding her only accompanied with her father and mother, before them he spake unto her after this manner:—

"Isabella of my soul, my parents out of the great love which they bear unto me, being not as yet well informed of that exceeding love which I still bear unto thee, have brought a damosel into this house, with whom they have treated and concluded to marry me, before that I should know the worth that is in thee, or that thou shouldst recover thy lost health. And this they have done, as I verily believe, with intention that the great beauty of this damosel should blot thine out of my soul, which is therein so deeply engraven. I, Isabella, from the very instant that I loved thee, it was with another kind of love than that which hath its aim and end in satisfying the sensual appetite; for albeit that thy corporal beauty did captivate my senses, yet thy infinite virtues were they which imprisoned my soul; so that if being fair I did love thee, being now foul I adore thee. And for the further confirming of this truth give me this hand;" and she giving him her right hand, and he holding it fast in his, prosecuted his speech, saying, "By that faith which my Christian parents taught me, and by that true God who heareth what we say, I promise

thee, my dear Isabella, the one half of my heart. I vow myself thy husband, and am so even from this very hour, if thou wilt raise me to that height of happiness to be thine."

Isabella remained in some suspense upon these words of Ricaredo, and her parents amazed and astonished. She knew not what to say, nor do any other thing save her often kissing of Ricaredo's hand, and telling him with a voice intermingled with tears that she accepted him for hers, and rendered herself to be his servant. Ricaredo kissed that her foul face, which when it was fair he durst never presume to touch. Isabella's parents with tender and many tears solemnised this nuptial feast. Ricaredo told them that he would put off his marrying with the Northern damosel which was now in the house, in such manner as he would hereafter give them to understand; and in case that his parents should send all three of them into Spain, that they should not decline it, but by all means get them gone; and that they should look for him within two years, either in Cadiz or Sevilla, assuring them on the word of a gentleman that ere that time were expired he would not fail to be with them, if Heaven should so long lend him life; and that if the time prefixed should be preterlapsed they should then rest assured that some great impediment, or death, which was the more certain, had crossed his intended journey.

Isabella made him answer that she would not stay only two years for him but all those of his life, till

that she were truly certified that he had left this life, and that in that instant that this should come to her knowledge the same likewise would be her death.

With these kind words fresh tears fell from them all. And Ricaredo went and told his parents that he would by no means be married, nor give his hand to the Northern damosel to be his spouse, till he had quieted his mind by a year's travel. He knew well how to express himself, and gave them such good reasons for it, as likewise to the parents that came with Clisterna (for that was the damosel's name), that being, as they were, all Christians, they did easily give credit unto them; and Clisterna was contented to remain in her father-in-law's house till Ricaredo should return, who craved a year's time.

This being thus concluded and greed upon, Clotaldo told Ricaredo how that he was resolved to send Isabella and her parents to Spain, if the Queen would give him leave so to do. "For," said he, "peradventure the air of her own country will hasten and facilitate her health," which she now began to recover. Ricaredo, that he might not give any the least inkling of his designs, answered (though but coldly) his father, that he should do that which seemed best in his own eyes; only he besought him that he would not take aught of those riches from Isabella which the Queen had bestowed on her. Clotaldo promised he would not; and that very day he went to crave license of the Queen, as well for the

marrying of his son to Clisterna as for the sending of Isabella with her father and mother into Spain.

The Queen was well contented with both his requests, and approved Clotaldo's determination. And that very day, without calling her bed-chamber woman in question, she dismissed her of her service, and condemned her (besides the loss of her place) in ten thousand crowns to Isabella. And the Earl Arnesto, for his challenging of Ricaredo, she banished him for six years. Four days were scarce spent and gone but that Arnesto was upon the point to go to comply with his banishment, having already taken order for the returning of his money.

The Queen commanded a rich merchant to come unto her that dwelt at Mundolin, who had very good correspondency in France, Italy, and Spain; to whom she delivered ten thousand crowns, and required of him bills of exchange for the returning of them to Isabella's father in Sevilla or in any other part of Spain. The merchant discounting his interest and profit, told the Queen that he would make certain and sure payment of them in Sevilla, by bills of exchange upon another French merchant, his correspondent, in this manner and form, viz., that he would write to Paris, to the end that the bills might be made there by another correspondent of his, because they would accept and allow of those that came from France, but not from this Island, by reason of the prohibition of commerce betwixt those two kingdoms, and that a letter of advice from him should serve the

turn, by a privy mark that passed between them two, and that without any more ado the merchant of Sevilla should give him the moneys, who should be advised thereof from Paris.

In fine, the Queen took such good security of the merchant that she made no doubt of the true payment of it; and not contenting herself with this, she sent for the master of a Flemish ship that lay in the river, and was to put forth the day following for France, only to take testimony thereof in some port, that he might be the better able to pass into Spain under the title of coming from France, and not from the Island; whom she earnestly entreated to carry with him in his ship Isabella and her parents, and that he should use them well and kindly, and land them in Spain at the very first place he should come at on that coast.

The master, who desired to give the Queen contentment, told her that he would do it, and that he would land them either in Lisbon, Cadiz, or Sevilla. Having taken sufficient security of the merchant, and assurance from the master, the Queen, by way of message, sent unto Clotaldo that he should not take anything of that away from Isabella which she had given her, as well in jewels as in clothes.

The next day came Isabella with her father and mother to take their leave of the Queen, who received them with a great deal of love. The Queen gave them the merchant's letter and many other gifts, as well in money as other curious dainties for their voyage. And Isabella with such courtship thanked

Her Majesty, that she left the Queen anew obliged unto her for to continue her favours still towards her. She took her leave likewise of the ladies, who now that she was grown disfigured would not that she should have left them, seeing themselves free from that envy which they bare unto her beauty, and would have been very well content to enjoy her gifts of wit and discretion. The Queen embraced all three of them, and recommending them to their good fortune and to the master of the ship, and desiring Isabella to advertise her of her safe arrival in Spain, and from time to time of her welfare, by the way of the French merchant, she took her leave of Isabella and her parents, who that very evening embarked themselves, not without the tears of Clotaldo and his wife, and of all those of the house, of whom she was extremely beloved.

At this their taking of their leaves Ricaredo was not present, who that he might not make show of his tender-heartedness and manifest his sorrow, procured some of his friends to go abroad that day a-hunting with him. The regalos which the lady Catalina gave Isabella for her voyage were many, her embracings infinite, her tears in abundance, her entreatings that she would write often unto her without number; and the thanks rendered by Isabella and her parents were answerable thereunto, so that though weeping they left each other well satisfied.

That night the ship hoised sail, and having with

a prosperous gale of wind touched upon the coast of France, and there taking in such provisions as were necessary for their voyage into Spain, within thirty days after they entered the bar of Cadiz, where Isabella and her parents disembarked themselves; and being known by all those of the city, they received them with expressions of much content. They received a thousand parabienes of the finding out of Isabella, and of the liberty which they had gotten, being first captivated by the Moors and afterwards by the Northern Islanders, having been made acquainted with all the passages of that business by those captives whom the liberality of Ricaredo had set free.

Now, Isabella in the meanwhile began to give great hopes of returning to recover her former beauty. They remained but a little more than a month in Cadiz, refreshing themselves of their weariness in their voyage, and then they went to Sevilla for to see whether the payment would prove good of the ten thousand crowns which were to be put to the account of the French merchant who had undertaken for to see it disbursed. Two days after their arrival at Sevilla they inquired after him, and found him, and gave him the French merchant's letter; he did acknowledge the bill, but told them that until he had received letters from Paris and a letter of advice he could not let them have the money, but yet that he looked every moment to be advertised thereof.

Isabella's parents had hired a very fair house, right over against Santa Paula, by reason that there was

a nun in that monastery a near kinswoman of theirs, who had the only rare and sweetest voice in all Spain, as well that they might be near unto her as also for that Isabella had told Ricaredo that if he should come to seek her he should find her in Sevilla, and that her cousin the nun of Santa Paula would direct him to her house, and that for to know where to find her he needed not to give himself any further trouble than to inquire after that nun which had the best voice in the monastery, because this token could not easily be forgotten.

It was forty days before letters of advice came from Paris, and within two days after they were come the French merchant delivered the ten thousand crowns to Isabella, and she them to her parents; and with them and some other which they had got together by selling some of those many of Isabella's jewels, her father began again to follow his trade of merchandise, not without the admiration of those who knew his great losses.

In conclusion, within a few months he went repaying his lost credit, and Isabella's beauty returned to its former perfection, insomuch that when any speech was had of fair women all of them gave the laurel to the North Isle Spaniard, who was as well known by this name as she was for her beauty throughout the whole city.

By the order of the French merchant of Sevilla Isabella and her parents writ letters to the Queen of the North Isle of their safe arrival in Spain,

with such acknowledgments and submissions at Her Majesty's feet as the many favours from her received did require. They likewise writ to Clotaldo and to his lady Catalina—Isabella styling them her father and mother, and her father and mother them their lords. From the Queen they received no answer, but from Clotaldo and his wife they did; whom in their letters gave them the parabien of their safe arrival, certifying them besides how that their son Ricaredo the next day after that they had hoised sail was gone for France, and from thence to pass to some other parts of Christendom, whither it was fitting for him to go for the settling and securing of his conscience, adding to these other discourses and compliments of much love and affection, besides many other fair and friendly offers. To which letters of theirs they made answer with another, no less courteous and loving than thankful.

Isabella presently imagined that Ricaredo's leaving his country was to come to seek her out in Spain, and feeding herself with this hope she began to lead the most contented life in the world, and studied to live in such sort that when Ricaredo should come to Sevilla he might sooner hear the good report that went of her virtues than come to the knowledge of her house. Seldom or never did she go out of doors unless it were to the monastery; she reaped no benefit by any other jubilees save those which she gained by the monastery. From her house and from her oratory she went more with her meditations than her feet. She

never visited the river, nor walked to the Triana; she never went to see the common pastimes in the Field de Tablada, nor to see the parts of Xeres, nor to go, if it were a fair day, to the feast of Saint Sebastian, celebrated by so many people as can hardly be reduced to any number, but spent all her whole time in retiredness, in prayers and good desires, still looking for the coming of her Ricaredo.

This her great retiredness did set on fire and inflame the desires not only of those young gallants of that street where she dwelt but of all those that had but once had a sight of her. Hence grew night-music at her window, and day careers with their jennets. And from this her not suffering herself to be seen, and from others much desiring to see her, increased their seeking out of cunning bawds which were mistresses in their art, and promised to show themselves no less in soliciting Isabella; and there were not some wanting who endeavoured to bring this their wicked purpose to pass by witchcraft, charms, sorcery, and the like lewd courses. But against all these Isabella was like a rock in the midst of the sea, against which the waves and the winds dash and beat, but do not move it.

A year and a half was now past when the approaching hope of those two years promised by Ricaredo began with more earnestness than hitherto it had done to vex and grieve the heart of Isabella; and whiles she was now and then thinking with herself that her husband was come, and that she had him

before her eyes, and asked him what was the cause that hindered his coming and had kept him so long from her; and whiles again she imagined the just excuses that Ricaredo made her for his long absence, and how willingly she did believe and receive them, and how lovingly she embraced him in her arms and hugged him in her bosom as being the half part of her own soul. Then, even then when she was thinking on these love fancies, a letter came to her hands from the lady Catalina, bearing date from Mundolin some fifty days since. It was written in the tongue of the Island, but she reading it in Spanish saw that it spake thus:—

"Daughter of my soul, thou knowest very well Guillarte, Ricaredo's page, he went along with him in this his journey; and by a former of mine unto you I advertised you that Ricaredo made for France the second day after your departure, and from thence was to travel farther. Now this his servant Guillarte, at the end of sixteen months, in all which time we had no news of our son, came home to us yesterday, and brought us these sad tidings that the Earl Arnesto had by treachery killed Ricaredo in France. Now then, daughter, consider in what case his father, myself, and his spouse are in with this heavy news; being such, I say, that they have not left us any hope of putting this our misfortune in doubt. That which Clotaldo and myself entreat of you again and again is that you will truly and earnestly remember Ricaredo, who well deserveth this good office from you, considering how dearly he loved you, as you yourself best know. You shall likewise beg of God that He

will give us patience and bring us to a good death; to whom we likewise will make the same request, and humbly beseech Him that He will give unto you and your parents many long and happy years of life."

By the letter, hand, and seal there was not any the least doubt left to Isabella for not giving credit to the death of her husband. She knew very well his page Guillarte, and knew that he was true and trusty, and that in his own nature he hated a lie, and that he had no reason in the world for to feign that his death, and as little his mother lady Catalina, being that it imported nothing to send her such sorrowful news. In conclusion, no discourse that she could make with herself, nothing that she could imagine, could put it out of her thought that this unfortunate news was not true.

Having ended the reading of her letter without shedding a tear and without showing any signs of sorrow, with a composed countenance and with to appearance a quieted and contented mind, she arose from the estrado where she sate, and kneeling down devoutly, she made a solemn vow to live a single life, since that she might lawfully do it being now a widow.

Her parents dissembled their grief and covered that sorrow with the cloak of discretion which this sad news had caused in them, that they might be the better able to comfort Isabella in this bitterness of her soul; who being now as it were fully satisfied of her sorrow, moderating it with the resolution which she had put on, she fell to comforting of her parents, to whom she discovered her intent. But they did

advise her that she should not put it in execution until that those two years were over-past which Ricaredo had set down for the term of his coming; for thereupon much depended the confirming of the truth of Ricaredo's death, and she might then with the more safety and security change this her estate.

Isabella followed their counsel, and the six months and a half which remained for the accomplishing of the two years she spent them in the exercises of a religious damosel, and for the better preparing and fitting of herself for her entering into the monastery, having made choice of that of Santa Paula, where her cousin was.

The term of the two years was expired, and the day was come wherein she was to take upon her the habit; the news whereof was spread throughout the whole city amongst those who knew her by sight and by those that knew her only by report. Now the monastery stood not far off from Isabella's house, and her father inviting his friends, and they others, Isabella had one of the noblest and most honourable trains to accompany her thither as in the like occasions was never seen in Sevilla.

There accompanied her the Assistant, the Dean of the Church, and the Vicar-General of the Archbishop, and all the ladies and gentlemen of title and quality that were in the city, so great was the desire that all of them had to see that sun of Isabella's beauty which had so many months been eclipsed, and because it is the custom and fashion of those damosels which go to take the habit to be as gallant and as

bravely adorned as possibly they can devise, who as one that ever after from that instant sets up her rest, and takes her leave and farewell of all bravery and wholly discards it. Isabella was willing, that she might not break so ancient a custom, to trick and set forth herself in the best and most curious manner that possibly she could invent, and therefore she did put on that gown and kirtle and those rich dressings which she had on when she went to Court, which we have heretofore told you how rich, how sightly, and how magnificent it was. There came forth to public view those orient pearls and that glittering diamond, with the carcanet, chain, and girdle, which likewise were of great value.

Isabella went out of her house on foot, for her being so near unto the monastery excused coaches and caroches. The concourse of the people was so great that it repented them that they had not taken coach, for they would not give them way to get to the monastery. Some blessed her parents, others Heaven that had enriched her with so much beauty; some did stand on tiptoe for to see her, others having seen her once, ran to get afore that they might see her again.

But he that showed himself most solicitous in this kind, and so much that many took notice of him for it, was a man clad in one of those habits which they wear who return home redeemed from their captivity. This captive, then, at that very time that Isabella had set one foot within the porch of the covent, whither were come forth to receive her, as the use is amongst

them, the Prioress and the nuns, with a loud voice he cried out, "Stay, Isabella, stay! for whilst that I shall be alive thou canst not enter into any religious order." At the hearing of these words Isabella and her parents looked back, and saw that, cleaving out his way through the thickest of the throng, that captive came making towards them, whose blue round bonnet being fallen off which he wore on his head, he discovered a confused and entangled skein of golden-wired hairs, curling themselves into rings, and a face intermixed with crimson and snow, so pure red and white was his complexion, all of them assured signs and tokens inducing all of them to take and hold him to be a stranger.

In effect, one while falling through too much haste, and then getting him up quickly again, he came at last where Isabella was, and taking her by the hand said unto her, "Knowest thou me, Isabella? Look well upon me; behold that I am Ricaredo thy husband." "Yes, I know thee," replied Isabella, "if thou art not a phantasma, a walking spirit, or some false-assumed apparition, that is come to disturb my repose." Her parents drew nearer and nearer unto him, and did view and eye him very narrowly, and in conclusion came certainly to know that this captive was Ricaredo; who with tears in his eyes, falling down on his knees before Isabella, besought her that the strangeness of that habit wherein she now saw him might not be a bar to her better knowledge of him, nor that this his mean and baser fortune should be a hindrance to the

making good of that word and faithful promise which they had given and plighted each to other.

Isabella, maugre the impression which Ricaredo's mother's letter had made in her memory, sending her the news of his death, chose rather to give more credit to her eyes and the truth which she had present before her, than to trouble herself to make a further needless inquiry; and therefore, kindly embracing the captive, she said unto him, "You doubtless, sir, are the man who can only hinder my determination; since that you are truly my husband, you can be no less than the better half of my soul. I have thee imprinted in my memory, and have laid thee up in my heart. Come therefore, sir, unto my father's house, which is yours, and there I will deliver up unto you the possession of my person."

All these words the standers-by heard, together with the Assistant, the Dean, and the Archbishop's Vicar-General of Sevilla; at the hearing whereof they were all of them strucken with admiration, and stood a while as men astonished, and were desirous that it might presently be told them what history this, and what stranger that was, and of what marriage they treated. Whereunto Isabella's father made answer, saying that that history required another place and some time for to tell it, and therefore besought them, since that they were so willing to know it, that they would be pleased to return back with him to his house, being that it was so near, and that there it should be recounted unto them, and in such a

manner that with the truth thereof they should remain satisfied, and at the strangeness of that success amazed.

This was no sooner said but that one of those there present spake aloud, saying, "Gentlemen, this young man is a great pirate, for I know him well enough; and this is he who, some two years since and somewhat more, took from the pirates of Argiers that ship of Portugal which came from the Indies. Ye need not doubt that this is the man, for I confidently tell you that I know him; for he gave me my liberty and money to bring me home to Spain, and did not only free me, but three hundred captives more, furnishing them with victuals and moneys." With these words the vulgar were in an uproar, and the desire afresh revived which all of them had to know and see such intricate things as these to be fully cleared.

In fine, the gentlemen of more especial rank and quality, with the Assistant and those two principal Churchmen, returned back to accompany Isabella to her house, leaving the nuns sorrowful and weeping that they had lost so fair a sister and companion as Isabella; who being come home, and having brought the gentlemen into a spacious large hall, entreated them to sit down. And albeit Ricaredo was willing enough to take upon him the relating of this desired history, yet notwithstanding it seemed good unto him rather to trust Isabella's tongue and discretion with it than his own, who did not very perfectly speak the language of Spain. All that were present were in a still silence, and having their ears and souls

ready prepared to hear what Isabella would say, she began to recount the story, which I reduce briefly to this: that she delivered all that unto them which happened from the day that Clotaldo by stealth carried her away from Cadiz till her return thither again; not omitting the battle which Ricaredo fought with the Turks, and the liberality and bounty which he had used towards the Christians, and the faith which both of them had plighted each to other to be man and wife; the promise of two years, the news which she had received of his death, and that so certain to her seeming that it put her into that course which they had so lately seen of professing herself a nun; she did endear the Queen of the North Island's bounty towards her, and the Christianity of Ricaredo and his parents; and ended her speech with desiring Ricaredo that he would relate what had befallen him from the time that he left Mundolin until this very present, wherein they saw him clad in the habit of a captive and with a badge in his breast, betokening that he was redeemed by way of alms.

"It is true as you say," replied Ricaredo, "and in a few short words I will sum up unto you my many and great troubles. After that I went out of Mundolin for to excuse the marriage which I could not make with Clisterna, with whom Isabella told you my parents would have me to marry, taking Guillarte along with me, that page who, as my mother's letters made mention, brought the news to Mundolin of my death, crossing France, I came to Rome, where of

those two thousand crowns which I had in gold, I delivered a thousand and six hundred to a banker, who gave me a bill to receive so much in this city, upon one Roqui, a Florentine; and with those four hundred which remained with me, with intention to come for Spain, I made for Genoa; whence I had notice given me that there were two galleys of that signory to go for Spain. I came with Guillarte my servant to a certain town called Aquapendiente; and in an inn where I alighted I found the Earl Arnesto, my mortal enemy, who with four servants went disguised, and went, as I conceive, to Rome. I did verily believe that he had not known me; I shut myself up in my lodging with my servant, and there kept myself close, and with a great deal of care and vigilancy, and with a determination and purpose at the shutting-in of night to get me gone, and to change that my lodging for a safer. But I did not do it, because the great carelessness which I observed in the Earl and his followers did assure me that he did not know me. I supped in my lodging; I made fast the door, stood upon my guard with my sword in my hand; I recommended myself to God, and would not that night go to bed. Myself and my servant lay down on a bench to take a little rest and sleep, and myself was half fallen asleep; but a little after midnight they awakened me with purpose to make me sleep an eternal sleep. Four pistols, as I afterwards understood, the Earl and his servants discharged against me, leaving me for dead; and having their

horses already in a readiness, they presently put foot in stirrup and went away, bidding the host of the inn that he would see me fairly buried, for that I was a man of principal note and quality. My servant, as mine host afterwards told me, awakened with the noise, out of very fear leaped down from a window that looked out into a base-court, crying out, 'O miserable and unfortunate that I am! they have slain my lord and master!' and having said this he hied him out of the inn, and that with such fear and haste that he did not so much as look back or make any stay till he came to Mundolin, so that it was he who brought the news of my death. They of the inn got up, found me shot athwart my body with four bullets and wounded with many other lesser shot, but all of them lighting on such parts that there was not one mortal wound amongst them all. They cured me, but it was two months and better before I was able to travel, at the end whereof I came to Genoa, where I found no other passage save in two small boats which myself and two other principal Spaniards hired, the one to go before as a vessel of advice for discovery, and the other we went in ourselves. With this security we embarked ourselves; sailing along the shore with intention not to engulf ourselves, but coming over against that place which they call Las Tres Marias, or The Three Marys, which is on the coast of France. Our first boat going forward to see if she could discover anything, in an unlucky hour two Turkish galleys that lay lurking there in a little



TREATING OF THE REDEEMING OF CHRISTIAN CAPTIVES.

creek of the sea under the rocks, and the one of them putting herself forth to the sea and the other keeping close by the land, when they saw our drift, that we meant to run ashore, we were prevented in our course, taken by the Turks, and stripped of all that we had even to our naked skins. They rifled the boats of all that they had, and suffered them to run ashore, without offering to sink them, saying that they would serve another time to bring them another galima (for by this name they call those spoils and booties which they take from the Christians). Ye may very well believe me if I tell you that I felt in my soul the soreness of my captivity, and above all the loss of those certificates and provisions I received at Rome, which I brought along with me, lapped up in a little box of plate, as likewise my bill of exchange for a thousand and six hundred crowns. But, as good luck would have it, they lighted into the hands of a Christian captive, a Spaniard, who kept them safe; for if they had once come to the Turks' fingering, I should at least have given for my ransom as [much as] my bill made mention of. They brought me to Argiers, where I found the Fathers of the Order of the Blessed Trinity treating of the redeeming of Christian captives. I spake with them; I told them who I was; and moved out of charity, though I was a stranger unto them, they redeemed me in this form and manner following. They gave for me three hundred ducats, one hundred to be laid down presently, and the other two at the next return of the ship that

should come to redeem the Father of that society, who remained in Argiers, engaged in four thousand ducats more than those that he brought with him; for to such great pity and compassion extendeth the charity of these men, that they give their own for other folk's liberty, and remain themselves captives for to free others from captivity. And for an addition of this happiness of my liberty, I found my lost box, with my certificates and my bill also of exchange. I showed it to that holy father who had ransomed me, and I offered him five hundred ducats more than my ransom came to, towards the payment of his engagement. It was almost a year ere the ship of alms returned, and that which in the interim happened unto me, if I should go about to recount it now unto you, it would be another new history. Only I will tell you that I was known of one of the twenty Turks whom I had set at liberty with the rest of the Christians before mentioned; but he was so thankful and so honest a man that he would not discover me, for had the Turks known that I was the man that sunk their two galleys, and took out of their hands that great ship of India, they would either have presented me to the Great Turk, or have taken away my life; and to have presented me to the Great Turk had been the loss of my liberty during life. In conclusion, the father that did ransom me came to Spain with me, together with other fifty redeemed captives. In Valencia we made a general procession, and from thence every one went his own

way which he liked best, with these ensigns and tokens of their liberty which are these poor kind of habits. This day I came to this city, with so great and earnest a desire to see my espoused Isabella, that without any other thing detaining me, I inquired for this monastery, where I was to have notice given me of my spouse. That which herein hath befallen me ye have already seen; that which remaineth to be seen are these certificates in the plate-box which I told you of."

And with that he put them into the Dean's hand, who perused them together with the Assistant, who did not find anything in them that might make doubt of the truth of that which Ricaredo had delivered unto them; and for further confirmation thereof, Heaven had so ordained it that the Florentine merchant was present at all this upon whom the bill was for the payment of sixteen hundred ducats; who entreated that they would let him see the bill; and they showing it him, he presently acknowledged and accepted it, for it was many months since that he had order for it. All this was but to add admiration to admiration, and amazement to amazement.

The Assistant embraced Ricaredo, and Isabella's parents, and herself; all of them in very courteous language offering them their service. The like did the two clergymen, and entreated Isabella that she would set down this story in writing, that the Archbishop might read it, which she promised she would. The people from the highest to the lowest giving

the parabien to Isabella, Ricaredo, and their parents, they took their leaves; and they on the other side besought the Assistant that he would honour their wedding with his presence, which some eight days hence they did purpose to celebrate. The Assistant was very well pleased with the motion, and within eight days after, accompanied with all the highest and principal persons of the city, he waited on them to church.

By these turnings and windings, and by these circumstances, Isabella's parents recovered their daughter, and were restored to their former wealth; and she, assisted by her many virtues, in despite of so many inconveniencies, lighted on a husband of such especial rank and quality as Ricaredo; in whose company, it is said, she still liveth in that house which they rented right over against Santa Paula, which since they bought of the heirs of a gentleman of Burgos, called Hernando de Cifuentes.

This novel may teach us what great power virtue and beauty have, since that both of them together, and each of them by themselves, are of force to make even their enemies in love with them, as likewise how that Heaven knows from the greatest adversities and afflictions to draw the greatest benefits and comforts.

THE END OF THE SIXTH BOOK

NOTES

P. 3, l. 1. *Nicosia.*] A town of Cyprus, taken by the Turks in 1570.

P. 9, l. 30. *all this empire is violent.*] Ruled not by justice but by force.

P. 19, l. 30. *carpet-knight.*] One knighted at court as a favourite, not on account of valour in the field. See *Twelfth-Night*, iii. 4, 257; and Fairfax's *Tasso*, xvi. 32.

P. 22, l. 13. *Corso.*] Corsica.

P. 24, l. 30. *fetching of boards.*] Tacking to and fro.

P. 28, l. 9. *imboked.*] Embogued, passed into the strait.

P. 28, l. 27. *heir.*] More correctly, inherits the goods of those who die without heirs.

P. 39, ll. 17, 18. *two thousand.*] It ought to be one thousand. Mabbe is occasionally inaccurate in his rendering of numbers and sums of money.

P. 65, l. 24. *quilates.*] Carats.

P. 65, l. 27. *chrysol.*] Crucible.

P. 84, l. 21. *parabien.*] Felicitation.

P. 90, l. 19. *sporting with canes.*] Mock tournaments.

P. 96, l. 14. *discovered.*] Uncovered.

P. 105, l. 2. *tables.*] Boards or panels on which pictures are painted.

P. 122, l. 23. *foulness.*] Ugliness.

P. 135. *The Spanish Lady.*] In the original this novel is styled "The Spanish-English Lady." Mabbe, being anxious to avoid particular allusion to politics or

religion, calls England "the Northern Island," and Queen Elizabeth "the Queen"; he also slightly varies a few passages in which divergences between the Romish and the Reformed Churches are touched upon by Cervantes. Where the text has "Christian," Roman Catholic may be understood. The anagram of London (Mundolin, *i.e.* Londinium) is quite evident. The translator's modifications do not interfere with the interest of the story.

P. 135, l. 3. *Cadiz.*] Taken and sacked by Howard and Essex in 1596.

P. 136, l. 26. *cockerings.*] Pamperings, indulgences. See *King John*, v. 1, 70.

P. 137, l. 9. *decency.*] Fitness, propriety.

P. 138, l. 2. *Isabel.*] Elizabeth. There is a plain reference to the Queen's name on p. 147.

P. 141, l. 15. *endearings.*] Terms of praise.

P. 145, l. 4. *caroch.*] A four-wheeled coach.

P. 145, l. 20. *state.*] A raised chair, with a canopy above

P. 145, l. 22. *star or exhalation.*] Meteor.

P. 155, l. 29. *Arpantemuam.*] A mere error in the old edition. It should be Arnaute Mami, the corsair who captured Cervantes.

P. 159, l. 12. *fifteen.*] The Spanish original has ten.

P. 160, l. 7. *a ship of advice.*] An aviso, or despatch-boat.

P. 162, l. 14. *which lay at anchor in the sea.*] Cervantes supposed London to be closer to the sea than it really is

P. 167, l. 6. *bases.*] An embroidered mantle or skirt, resembling a Highlander's kilt, worn by knights on horseback.

P. 177, l. 8. *frying.*] Burning. Now used only in a culinary sense. See Fairfax's *Tasso*, i. 32.

P. 190, l. 22. *regalos.*] Agreeable gifts.

P. 192, l. 19. *admiration.*] Wonder.

P. 198, l. 2. *sets up her rest.*] Makes a final determination

P. 198, l. 3. *bravery.*] Finery, rich apparel.

P. 198, l. 29. *covent.*] Convent. We still have Covent Garden in London.

P. 201, l. 7. *Argiers.*] The usual English form in the translator's age. Shakespeare has Argier.

P. 206, l. 4. *the charity of these men.*] It was they who redeemed Cervantes from slavery.

THE END